

INSIDE TODAY

Budget Bound?

MARK LANDLER
CARL HULSE

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WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama stepped up pressure on congressio-



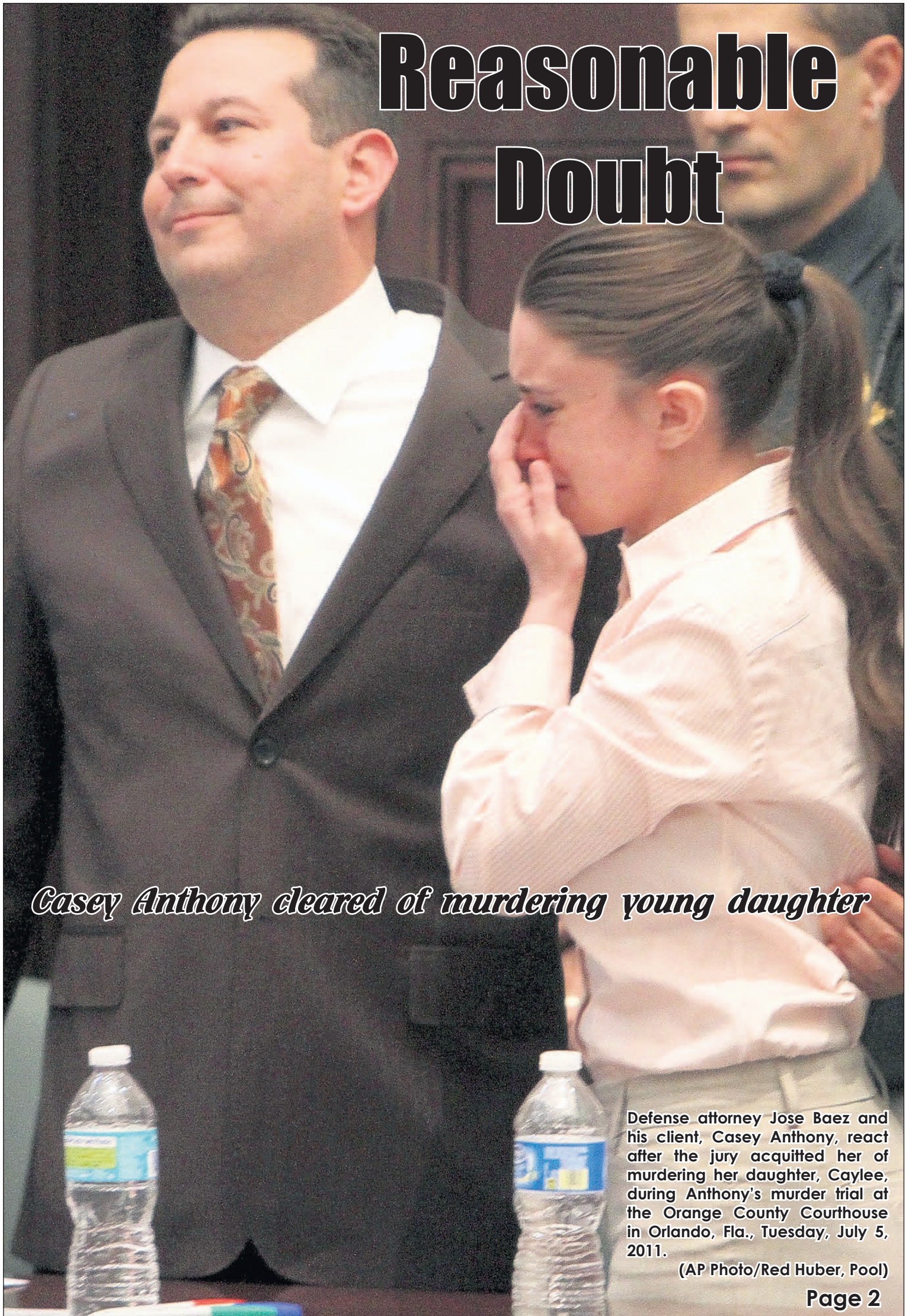
President Barack Obama speaks to the press at the White House in Washington, July 5, 2011. Obama said he has invited top Republican and Democratic lawmakers to the White House on Thursday for another round of deficit reduction talks, and warned against any short-term solutions to raise the nation's borrowing limit.
(Doug Mills/ The New York Times)

nal Republicans on Tuesday to agree to a broad deficit-cutting deal, pledging to put popular entitlement programs like Medicare on the table in return for Republican acquiescence to some higher taxes.

Obama, who met secretly with Speaker John A. Boehner at the White House on Sunday to try to advance the talks, called House and Senate leaders from both parties to the White House for further negotiations Thursday.

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Reasonable Doubt



Casey Anthony cleared of murdering young daughter

Defense attorney Jose Baez and his client, Casey Anthony, react after the jury acquitted her of murdering her daughter, Caylee, during Anthony's murder trial at the Orange County Courthouse in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

(AP Photo/Red Huber, Pool)

Casey Anthony cleared of murdering young daughter

Continued from Front Page

KYLE HIGHTOWER

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)

— Casey Anthony's eyes welled with tears and her lips trembled as the verdict was read once, twice and then a third time: "Not guilty" of killing her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee.

Outside the courthouse Tuesday, many in the crowd of 500 reacted with anger, chanting, "Justice for Caylee!" One man yelled, "Baby killer!"

In one of America's most divisive verdicts since former football star O.J. Simpson was acquitted in 1995 of murdering his wife and her friend, Anthony was cleared of murder, manslaughter and child-abuse charges after weeks of constant TV coverage that one of her attorneys denounced as "media assassination."

Anthony, 25, was



Cheney Mason answers questions after his client, Casey Anthony, was found not guilty in her murder trial in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, July 5, 2011. Anthony had been charged with killing her daughter, Caylee.

(AP Photo/Joe Burbank, Pool)

convicted only of four misdemeanor counts of lying to investigators who were looking into the child's June 2008 disappearance. Anthony could get up to

a year behind bars on each count when she is sentenced Thursday. But since she has been in jail for nearly three years already, she could walk free. Had

she been convicted of murder, she could have gotten the death penalty. After a trial of a month and a half, the Florida Ninth Judicial Circuit Court jury took less than 11 hours to reach a verdict in a case that had become a national cable TV sensation, with its testimony about the smell of death inside a car trunk and its storyline about a seemingly self-centered, hard-partying young mother.

Prosecutors contended that Anthony — a single mother living with her parents — suffocated Caylee with duct tape because she wanted to be free to hit the nightclubs and spend time with her boyfriend.

Defense attorneys argued that the little girl accidentally drowned in the family swimming pool, and that Anthony panicked and concealed the death because of the traumatic effects of sexual abuse by

her father.

State's Attorney Lawson Lamar said: "We're disappointed in the verdict today because we know the facts and we've put in absolutely every piece of evidence that existed." The prosecutor lamented the lack of hard evidence, saying, "This is a dry-bones case. Very, very difficult to prove. The delay in recovering little Caylee's remains worked to our considerable disadvantage."

Anthony failed to report Caylee's disappearance for a month. The child's decomposed body was eventually found in the woods near her grandparents' home six months after she was last seen. A medical examiner was never able to establish how she died, and prosecutors had only circumstantial evidence that Caylee had been killed. □

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U.S. to prosecute Somali in N.Y. court

CHARLIE SAVAGE
ERIC SCHMITT

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WASHINGTON — The Obama administration announced Tuesday that it would prosecute in civilian court a Somali accused of ties to two Islamist militant groups. The decision to fly the man to New York for trial, after interrogating him for months aboard a U.S. naval vessel, is likely to reignite debate about the detention and prosecution of terrorism suspects.

In an indictment unsealed in the Southern District of New York, the Somali, Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, was charged with nine counts related to accusations that he provided support to al-Shabab in Somalia and al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, in Yemen. Warsame, believed to be in his mid-twenties, was captured on April 19, and a plane carrying him arrived in New York City around midnight Monday night, officials said.

While the Justice Department called Warsame a "Shabab leader," it does not accuse him of plotting any specific attack. Officials gave conflicting accounts of his significance: One portrayed him as a "senior operational commander" while another played down his role, saying that his capture was instead important because he had provided large amounts of intelligence about the groups and ties between them. Regardless, his case is likely to have outsize significance in the political arena because it resonates with intense debates surrounding the administration's counterterrorism policies — including whether to bring newly captured detainees to the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. □

Romney questioned on critique of economy under Obama

JIM RUTENBERG

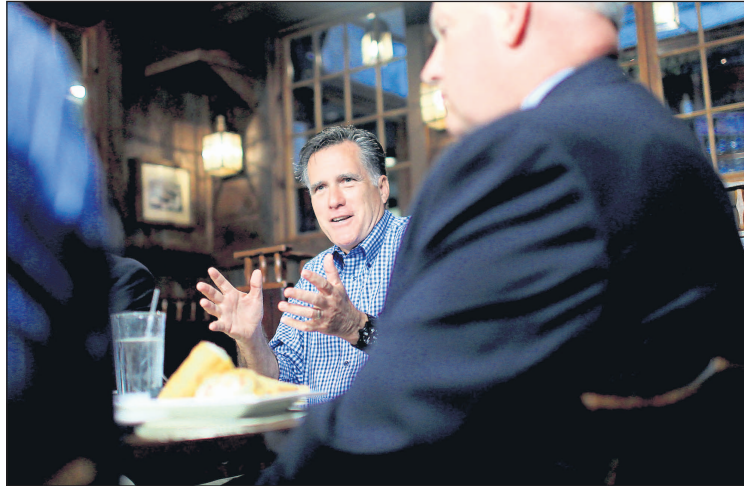
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HAMPTON, N.H. — For much of this year, Mitt Romney has laid low, seeking to reap the benefits of being the presumed front-runner in the race for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination (strong fundraising, positive polling) without suffering the downsides (intensive media scrutiny, endless shelling from rivals). But as Romney has finally started to campaign in earnest over the past couple of weeks, the dangers of his perceived leading status are coming into view, with a more intensive focus on his every word. And in the past few days, it has revolved around three words in particular: "Things are worse."

During his campaign swing through this crucial state this week, Romney has been faced with repeated questions about the consistency of his commentary on President Barack Obama's handling of the recession and the subsequent economic recovery. To recap: On Thursday, when asked by a journalist in Pennsylvania to jibe

his assertions that "things are worse" under Obama with various signs of economic improvement since the president took office, Romney replied, "I didn't say things are worse," adding, "What I said was the economy hasn't turned

covery was more anemic because of him as well. (The recession was declared officially over as of June 2009, but the recovery, especially in employment, has been weak and inconsistent.) At a town-hall-style meeting Tuesday in his vaca-



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney gestures while meeting with local business owners during a town hall meeting in Hampton, N.H., Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

(AP Photo/Cheryl Senter)

around." Democrats accused him of "flip-flopping" on a central assertion of his candidacy.

Attending Fourth of July festivities in New Hampshire on Monday, Romney reasserted that "the recession is deeper because of our president" and that the re-

cession town of Wolfeboro, N.H., Romney filled out his economic case against Obama, saying his early moves scared businesses out of spending money and hiring. He cited Obama's ultimately abandoned pursuit of cap-and-trade environmental legislation and

financial sector regulatory changes as being among the culprits.

His latest formulation on Obama and the economy raised a new question from a reporter at a briefing at the Galley Hatch restaurant here, where he had met with friendly local officials and small-business owners to discuss their economic troubles. Given that Romney has used a present-tense formulation to say, for instance, "the recession is deeper" and the recovery slower because of Obama, the reporter asked, "Is it your view that it's possible to be both in recession and recovery at the same time?"

"The technical term of the recession is not the one that I think the American people recognize," Romney said, defining that as "a shrinking GDP." Rather, he said, "I think most of the American people understand that we're still feeling the effects of the recession and that the recovery that comes from a recession, which has been under way for some time, has not occurred as they would have expected it to occur." □

Obama summons parties' leaders for deficit reduction

Continued from Front Page

And he rejected talk of an interim deal that would get the government past a looming deadline on raising the federal debt limit without settling some of the longer-term issues contributing to the government's fiscal imbalances.

"We've got a unique opportunity to do something big, to tackle our deficit in a way that forces our government to live within its means," he said in an appearance in the White House briefing room, casting himself as much an honest broker as a partisan participant in the talks. "This will require both parties to get out of our comfort zones, and both parties to agree on real compromise."

Obama's previously undisclosed Sunday meeting with Boehner suggests the talks are entering a critical phase. There were also intense staff-level nego-

tiations between the White House and Congress over the details of a multi-trillion-dollar package of spending cuts that could clear the way for a vote to raise the debt ceiling, constrain

the growth of government and radically reshape the role of government in U.S. society.

The two sides remain in a deadlock over the president's insistence that the

package contain tax increases as well as spending cuts. While Obama did not retreat from that demand Tuesday, he coupled it with a pledge to take on spending in "entitlement programs" — a promise likely to unsettle many Democrats. While a broad-based agreement may appeal to the White House, neither Senate Republicans nor Democrats may be as eager to embrace one.

Democrats worry that a deal that cuts Medicare could rob them of what they see as their political advantage on the issue; Republicans trying to win the majority next year might not like an agreement that is seen as giving Democrats credibility on cutting the deficit.

But Boehner, while again saying that higher taxes were a nonstarter, expressed pleasure at Obama's willingness to single out entitlements. □



Senate Budget Committee Chairman Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) confers with other Republican senators before a press conference on the debt limit in Washington, July 5, 2011. President Barack Obama announced that he has invited top Republican and Democratic lawmakers to the White House on Thursday for another round of deficit reduction talks, and warned against any short-term solutions to raise the nation's borrowing limit at a press conference on Tuesday. From left: Sens. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-Texas), Sessions, Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.).

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

Calls grow for spent nuclear fuel to be stored more securely

MATTHEW L. WALD

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MARSEILLES, Ill. — Watching intently as a huge white steel container surfaced from a 42-foot-deep canal, workers set upon it with long-handled tools, like sailors wrestling a flailing whale to the deck of a ship.

Yet this catch was far more menacing: 57,000 pounds of spent nuclear fuel at the LaSalle nuclear plant here, stored for decades in a pool and, if unshielded, powerful enough to deliver a lethal dose of radiation within seconds. The fuel had just been moved into a capsule the size of a small silo, called a dry cask. Welded shut after it came out of the water, the cask was pumped full of inert gas, placed in an outer cask and moved

outdoors to a concrete pad where it will sit until a disposal site is found. Spent fuel must be isolated from the environment for hundreds of thousands of years before it loses its potency.

The nuclear calamity at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant has refocused attention on the vulnerability of spent fuel pools at the 104 operating U.S. nuclear plants. The pools are generally far more packed than the damaged ones at Fukushima. Some scientists argue that the crowding raises the risk of a fire and makes the pools a tempting target for terrorists.

Several members of Congress are calling for the fuel to be moved from the pools into dry casks at a faster clip, noting that the casks



A Hi-Storm dry cask container, full of spent nuclear fuel, outside the LaSalle County Generating Station, a nuclear power plant, in LaSalle, Ill., June 17, 2011. The earthquake and tsunami in Japan that damaged the spent nuclear fuel pools at the Fukushima Daiichi plant has brought into question whether it might be safer to store spent fuel in dry casks.

(Peter Wynn Thompson/The New York Times)

are thought to be capable of withstanding an earthquake or a plane crash, they have no moving parts and they require no electricity. "We should not wait for an American meltdown to beef up American nuclear safety measures," Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., who advocates greater reliance on casks, said after the accident in Japan. "We must heed the lessons to be learned from the nuclear meltdown in Japan and ensure nuclear safety here." But transferring the fuel to dry casks involves risks of its own, some industry experts say. "It's a very complex discussion," said Neil Wilmschurst, a nuclear

power expert and a vice president of the Electric Power Research Institute, a nonprofit utility consortium. "Every time you move spent fuel, there's always a risk of human error. How much of this do you want to do if you don't need to do it?" The discussion is unfolding amid a far broader and more divisive debate over nuclear waste disposal. A half-century after the American nuclear industry was born, the nation still lacks a dedicated repository for such waste because of maneuvering driven by not-in-my-backyard politics. In 1987 Congress designated Yucca Mountain, a desolate volcanic ridge in

the Nevada desert, as a national disposal site, ruling out sites in Texas and Washington state. But the political landscape shifted, and the Obama administration canceled the project in 2009 under pressure from Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, leader of the Senate's Democratic majority.

Then came the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March, which cut off power to four reactors at Fukushima and caused three cores to melt. The melting fuel in the reactors released hydrogen gas that then exploded, throwing debris into the fuel pools, destroying a barrier that had prevented the release of radioactive materials to the outdoors and leaving the pools exposed to the rain. Suddenly, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was under pressure to explain whether crowded U.S. pools faced parallel risks.

Gregory B. Jaczko, chairman of the commission and a former aide to Reid, contends that both fuel pools and dry cask storage are relatively safe, with any differences being fractional. "It's like the difference between buying one ticket in the Powerball lottery and 10 tickets," he said in an interview, referring to the odds that something will go wrong. □

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Strauss-Kahn lawyers and prosecution to meet today

JOHN ELIGON

W. K. RASHBAUM

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NEW YORK — Manhattan

prosecutors are scheduled to meet today with the lawyers for Dominique Strauss-Kahn to discuss whether the sexual assault case against him can be resolved through a dismissal or a plea, according to a person briefed on the matter.

The meeting, which Cyrus R. Vance Jr., the Manhattan district attorney, may attend, will come about two weeks before the next scheduled court appearance, on July 18, and days after prosecutors said the case was weakened because of problems with the accuser's credibility.

Prosecutors are not expected to decide Wednesday whether to dismiss the case or offer a plea as they continue to gather more evidence, according to a senior law enforcement official.

Strauss-Kahn, 62, was arrested and charged in May

with trying to rape a housekeeper at the Sofitel New York and forcing her to perform oral sex.

Prosecutors last week

called into question the housekeeper's credibility after learning, among other things, that the woman, a Guinean immigrant, had

lied on her asylum application and tax returns, and after she admitted altering her account of what she had done after encountering Strauss-Kahn. But prosecutors maintained that there was still evidence to suggest a sexual assault had taken place.

The question remains whether that evidence is strong enough for prosecutors to get Strauss-Kahn, who was once a leading candidate to become the next president of France, to plead guilty to some charge. It seems likely that any deal would involve a misdemeanor plea in which he would serve no jail time and would be allowed to return to France. But it remains unclear if prosecutors have ruled out

seeking a felony plea.

Strauss-Kahn's defense team indicated last week that he would be unwilling to plead guilty to any crime unless prosecutors presented strong evidence. Barring that, the Manhattan district attorney's office would have to dismiss the charges altogether or go to trial.

The prosecution must also consider whether it believes the case is strong enough to proceed to trial if Strauss-Kahn refuses to plead guilty.

William W. Taylor III, who, along with Benjamin Brafman, is representing Strauss-Kahn, declined to comment Tuesday on whether a meeting was scheduled or what steps would be taken in the case. □



Tristane Banon and her lawyer David Koubbi leave the lawyer's office in Paris, Tuesday July 5, 2011. French novelist Tristane Banon filed on Tuesday a criminal complaint on accusing Dominique Strauss-Kahn of attempted rape, her lawyer said, throwing fresh uncertainty into a fierce national debate about whether the former International Monetary Fund chief can return to his country's presidential race.

(AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

Systematic cheating found in Atlanta's public schools

KIM SEVERSON

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ATLANTA — A state investigation released Tuesday showed rampant, systematic cheating on test scores in this city's long-troubled public schools, ending two years of increasing skepticism over remarkable improvements touted by school leaders.

The results of the investigation, made public by Gov. Nathan Deal, showed that the cheating occurred at 44 schools and involved at least 178 teachers and principals, almost half of whom have confessed, the governor said.

A culture of fear, intimidation and retaliation existed in the district, which led to a conspiracy of silence, he said in a prepared statement.

"There will be consequences," Deal said.

That will certainly include

dismissals, according to school board members and the interim superintendent, Erroll B. Davis Jr., and could likely result in criminal charges.

The findings of the investigation, which was conducted by a former state attorney general and a former county district attorney,

will be delivered to district attorneys in three counties where cheating likely took place.

Kasim Reed, Atlanta's mayor, called the release of the investigation "a dark day for the Atlanta public school system."

The cheating, he said, showed a complete failure of leadership that hurt thousands of children who might have been promoted to the next grade without meeting basic academic standards.

At the center of the cheating scandal is former Su-

perintendent Beverly L. Hall, who was named 2009 National Superintendent of the Year and has been considered one of the nation's best at running large, urban school districts.

Hall, who had announced in November that she would be leaving the job at the end of June, left Tuesday morning for a Hawaiian vacation.

Hall is a veteran administrator of the New York and Newark public schools. She took over the Atlanta district in 1999, and enjoyed broad support. Under her administration, Atlanta schools had shown marked improvement in several areas.

Still, the investigation shows cheating on the state-mandated Criterion-Referenced Competency Test began as early as 2001, and "clear and significant" warnings were raised as early as December 2005. □

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GOP House freshmen wary of challenges from own party in 2012

JENNIFER STEINHAUER
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WASHINGTON – Just when freshman House Republicans have finally learned their way to the Cannon Caucus Room, how to vote on a motion to proceed, and which commissary serves the best tuna sandwiches, someone back home – worse, someone from their own party – wants to take it all away.

"I am taking a serious look," said Weston Wamp, who is pondering a primary challenge to Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, in his first term from Tennessee. Wamp said he is inspired by his father, Zach, who served in the House for many years. "My experience through my dad was seeing the very best of what public service can mean."

It is miles to go before the 2012 congressional races begin in earnest, but already some of the 87 freshmen who helped the Republicans win back the House last year are bracing for a challenge from within. At least half a dozen potential primary challengers to freshmen are mulling a run, and there is heated chatter about more.

In some ways, the freshmen are responsible for their own dilemma. Many won their seats after successfully challenging establishment Republicans in primaries, proving that a combination of gumption and the right political climate can overcome the advantages of incumbency.

Now, to some of the impatient and ideological voters who sent them to Washington to change things, the new House members may be seen as the establishment, and they face the disconcerting prospect of immediately defending themselves in the political marketplace.

The 2012 primary "started the day I took office," said Rep. Blake Farenthold, who won last year in a heavily Democratic district in South Texas but is now likely to face a Republican pri-

mary challenger. "There is this constant pressure for fundraising. I mean you're always worried about who is going to run against you, but I am willing to stand up for what I believe and on my record."

In many states Republicans control the once-a-decade process of redrawing congressional districts, and they are maneuvering to make marginal districts

redistricting will inspire a whole host of interesting primary challenges on both sides of the aisle."

On the flip side, groups aligned with the Tea Party movement, which helped push many new-to-politics candidates into House seats, are disenchanted with some of their new hires, and are pondering if they can raise the money – and the firepower – to find

well as those in Mississippi and Georgia, complaining about freshmen House members who voted for a disappointing short-term spending agreement with President Barack Obama that fell short of the party's budget-cutting goals. "They have broken their promises," she said. "People are dissatisfied." Among the potentially vulnerable members of the Class of 2010 is Farenthold, whose victory was so unexpected that the national party more or less ignored him during the campaign. His race also was so close – he won by 799 votes – that it was called just before the new Congress convened in January. He got the last office available, the palatial space once enjoyed by the senior Democrat he ousted, Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz, who had held the seat for nearly 30 years.

Farenthold, a wealthy former radio talk show host and computer consultant, is known on the Hill less for his legislative prowess than his frequent cable TV appearances on MSNBC and his rather non-businesslike tweets that began long before he won. (Examples: "I like pizza but it doesn't like me;" and "Let's not forget Israel is our BFF in a hostile area.")

Farenthold said he goes on MSNBC because he is asked to and because it is more like "missionary work" than going on Fox News, and that his use of social media is part of who he is. "Twitter scares the daylights out of my office staff," he said. "But social media is not just another avenue to put out your press releases. It's got to have a little edge."

Should redistricting maps hold up, Farenthold's district would be much more Republican than it is now, and more attractive to candidates. "It is widely anticipated that he will have a primary challenger," said Chris Elam, a spokesman for the Republican Party of Texas. □



Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Texas), a freshman congressman, talks to reporters on Capitol Hill, in Washington. With at least a half dozen potential primary challengers thinking about running in 2012, freshman congressmen are having to quickly get ready for potential competition from their fellow Republicans.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

more Republican-friendly. That is meant to shore up incumbents, but it can also make a district more attractive to Republican newcomers.

"We just had a great Republican year," said Kurt Luidhardt, a political consultant in Indiana who worked for several newcomers in 2010. "So a lot of Republican candidates now want to get in there and run. I would imagine

someone to take them on. "I do think it is going to be more competitive," said Jenny Beth Martin, a co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots. "With the freshmen who claim to be Tea Party or claim to support the ideas of the Tea Party movement but haven't kept their promise, I think it will be tough for them."

Martin said she regularly fields emails from New York Tea Party groups, as

Huckabee's daughter joins Pawlenty camp

MICHAEL D. SHEAR
© 2011 New York Times

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the daughter and top political adviser to Mike Huckabee, a former governor of Arkansas, has joined Tim Pawlenty's presidential campaign as a senior adviser, the campaign announced Tuesday.



Tim Pawlenty

The campaign said Sanders would help Pawlenty, a former governor of Minnesota, achieve the victory that Huckabee captured in the Republican caucuses in Iowa in 2008.

Pawlenty is facing tough competition in Iowa, including Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota, a Tea Party favorite who was born in the Hawkeye State. "Sarah is a results-oriented person with a great track record in Iowa and around the country," Pawlenty said in a statement.

Pawlenty's campaign said Sanders would initially focus on expanding the governor's grassroots efforts in Iowa, with the goal of winning the straw poll in August.

But the campaign is clearly hoping that the hire will suggest that Pawlenty will have the support of Huckabee, who swept to a victory in Iowa with the help of evangelical Christians.

Huckabee, who has a show on Fox News and is an analyst for the network, decided against a second run for the Republican nomination. He has not said whether he will endorse a candidate in the primary race. □

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Filipino officials ban Chinese diplomat

JIM GOMEZ,
Associated Press
MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Philippine officials have banned a senior Chinese diplomat from meetings for alleged rude behavior, in the latest fallout from a feud over the potentially oil-rich Spratly Islands, officials said.

Department of Foreign Affairs officials said Tuesday that Chinese Embassy First Secretary Li Yongsheng, who heads its political section, raised his voice at a Filipino officer last month while discussing Philippine allegations of Chinese intrusions in Manila-claimed areas in the Spratlys. A memorandum from the department's Asian and Pacific Affairs office said Li exhibited "conduct unbecoming of a diplomat" and that the Chinese embassy had been informed he would not be allowed to attend future meetings at the Philippine office. Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario has been informed about the incident, according to the memo, which was seen by The Associated Press. The memorandum did not provide details of what happened at the meeting, but at least three senior Filipino diplomats said Li raised his voice in an offensive manner during a discussion of Manila's claims that Chinese forces intruded into Philippine territorial waters in and near the Spratlys. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because they lacked authority to talk to reporters. □

Acquittals of ex-officials feed anger across Egypt

LIAM STACK

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CAIRO — An Egyptian criminal court Tuesday acquitted three former ministers of corruption while convicting a fourth in absentia, ver-

house and led protesters to block a major highway for several hours. The decisions have aggravated growing anger at the military council now running the country. It has faced mounting

military courts." Egyptian officials have increasingly struggled to contain deep public anger and frustration. Those demanding political change are angry over alleged rights viola-

military prison workers.

Violence has also continued in the capital. On Saturday, 47 people were injured when protesters camped in Tahrir Square clashed with tea vendors they accused of being agents planted by the police. So far, only one police officer has been convicted, in absentia, of killing protesters. The former interior minister, Habib el-Adly, was sentenced in May on corruption charges, but his trial over protester deaths was postponed. The former president, Hosni Mubarak, has also been charged in the deaths of protesters and is scheduled to see his first day in court Aug. 3.

"People, especially families of martyrs, have had enough," said Sarah Abdelrahman, an activist, referring to those killed in the uprising. "The more people continue to stall, the angrier people are getting."

Tuesday's acquittals involved a former finance minister, Yousef Boutros-Ghali, and a former information minister, Anas el-Feqy, over misusing about \$6 million in public funds on parliamentary and political campaigns. Boutros-Ghali, a nephew of the former United Nations secretary general, has been out of the country since February and was earlier sentenced to 30 years in absentia for misuse of office equipment. Feqy remained in prison on other charges.

The third official, Ahmed el-Maghraby, was found not guilty of profiteering from an improper sale of state-owned land when he was housing minister. He maintained throughout the trial that the deal happened before he took office. □



Demonstrators hold banners with arabic words that reads " Open strike there is retribution" center, " I'm a thug" ridiculing official accusations that protesters are violent thugs, right, and " Revolutionaries but they call us thugs." left, as they protest in the Martyrs Square in Suez, Egypt, Tuesday, July 5, 2011. Hundreds of Egyptians attacked a courtroom in Cairo Monday, scuffled with security guards, and blocked a major highway for hours after the court ordered the release of 10 policemen charged with killing protesters in Suez during the country's uprising.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

dicts likely to further inflame public anger over the pace of efforts to hold former officials accountable for killing more than 800 people during the country's 18-day revolution. The acquittals were seen as especially provocative because they followed by one day a separate Cairo court decision to release on bail seven police officers charged with killing 17 protesters and wounding 350 more in the city of Suez during the revolution. That decision sparked a riot at the court-

criticism from protesters who say it is too slow to prosecute former officials, yet has moved quickly and aggressively to prosecute hundreds of civilians before military courts in connection with pro-democracy activities. "People see more and more that nothing is changing," said Lilian Wagdy, who is helping to organize a large protest in Tahrir Square on Friday. "Those who have been robbing this country for 30 years get acquitted while protesters are found guilty before

tions and unsatisfactory trials. Others are fed up with the post-revolutionary uncertainty and crippled economy. Their sentiments often erupt in violence, sometimes pitting policemen against protesters, and civilians against civilians. A coalition of human rights groups filed a lawsuit against the military council Tuesday on behalf of a woman they said was tried before a military court in March, tortured and forced to submit to a "virginity test" within view and earshot of

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Pressure grows on news corp. over latest hacking allegations

SARAH LYALL
ERIC PFANNER

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LONDON – Political pressure is bearing down on Rebekah Brooks, a top executive of News Corp. in Britain, following allegations that one of the company's newspapers hacked the cellphone of a 13-year-old girl who was abducted and murdered in 2002, when Brooks was its editor. Prominent politicians chastised the company and Brooks, and Ford Motor Co. suspended advertising in News of the World, the tabloid that has faced a long-running scandal over the widespread interception of voice mail messages of celebrities and other public figures. Ed Miliband, leader of the opposition Labour Party, said Tuesday that Brooks should "consider her conscience and consider her position" after the disclosures. "It wasn't a rogue reporter," Miliband said. "It wasn't just one individual. This was a systematic series



This is an undated Surrey Police handout photo of Milly Dowler made available Monday July 4, 2011. Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron said Tuesday July 5, 2011 that he is shocked by allegations that a British tabloid hacked into the cellphone of a murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler after she went missing. "If they are true, this is a truly dreadful act and a truly dreadful situation," Cameron said about the latest hacking allegations against the News of the World.

(AP Photo/Surrey Police. Ho)

of things that happened, and what I want from executives at News International is people to start taking responsibility for this." News International is News Corp.'s British newspaper division, and Brooks is its chief executive. Prime Minister David Cameron took time out from a visit to British troops in Afghanistan to lament what he called a "truly dreadful situation." The police, he added, "should investigate this without any fear, without any favor, without any worry about where the evidence should lead them." Ford Motor Co. said it was suspending its advertising until the newspaper concluded its investigation into the episode. "We are awaiting an outcome from the News of the World investigation and expect a speedy and decisive response," Ford said in a statement released to news agencies. Under an onslaught of Twitter messages demanding a boycott of the paper, several other companies said they were reviewing their advertising policies. Late Tuesday, the Guardian reported that the police would review every highly publicized murder, kidnapping or assault involving a child since 2001 for evidence of phone hacking. That would include the notorious case of Madeleine McCann, the 3-year-old who disappeared while her family was on vacation in Portugal in 2007. In another development, Channel 4 reported Tuesday that Brooks met with the police in 2002 over accusations that the tabloid had placed a senior Metropolitan police detective under surveillance.

The detective was investigating the murder of a private investigator who had been found dead with an ax buried in the back of his head. The chief suspect at the time was the dead man's business partner, a private investigator who earned a six-figure salary supplying The News of the World with confidential information. Nothing apparently came of the inquiry into the News of the World's surveillance. In his remarks, Cameron did not mention Brooks, but his

The police, he added, "should investigate this without any fear, without any favor, without any worry about where the evidence should lead them."

comments were notable because, as have other British politicians, he has cultivated social connections with News Corp. executives like Brooks and Rupert Murdoch, the chief executive of the company. Cameron, along with Gordon Brown, the Labour prime minister at the time, was a guest at the reception following Brooks' marriage to her second husband, Charlie Brooks, in 2009. Brooks vowed to "pursue the facts with vigor and integrity," saying she had no intention of quitting. "I am aware of the speculation about my position," she said in a memo to News International employees. "Therefore it is important you all know that as chief executive, I am determined to lead the company to ensure we do the right thing and resolve these serious issues." □

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Caribbean Briefs

Bahamas bans commercial shark fishing

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — The Bahamas banned commercial fishing of sharks Tuesday, awarding protection to the more than 40 species circling the island chain that touts itself as the shark diving capital of the world. Activists cheered the new law, having demanded more protection for sharks after a local seafood company announced last year that it planned to export shark meat and fins to Hong Kong.

The ban applies to an estimated 243,000 square miles (630,000 square kilometers) of water surrounding the archipelago, which has one of the most diverse and thriving shark populations in the world, thanks to a 20-year-old ban on longline fishing. But commercial fishermen were still allowed to catch sharks through other, less common, means. "There were no specific laws in the Bahamas for sharks, the crown jewels of ocean health," said Eric Carey, executive director of The Bahamas National Trust. "The new regulations ... ensure that sharks can continue to thrive for generations in our waters." The government also increased shark-fishing fines from \$3,000 to \$5,000. □

Jamaican Govt. bans sale of citrus plants

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica has shuttered all citrus nurseries across the tropical country to try and check an invasive pest that carries a fast-spreading bacteria capable of devastating its \$43 million commercial industry, officials said Tuesday. Jamaica's ministry of agriculture announced that all nurseries were closed until further notice and the sale of plants were prohibited to control the spread of the incurable "citrus greening" disease, which has hobbled citrus production in parts of China and infested millions of dead and dying trees in Florida and Brazil. "If the disease is not managed, it can have very severe repercussions," said Alfred Barrett, program manager of the Jamaica Citrus Protection Agency. "So we're hoping that by closing the nurseries within the vector we can get it under control." But with nearly 5,300 citrus farmers, nearly 5,000 of whom tend to plots of 10 acres (4 hectares) or less, stopping the spread of the blighting disease in mountainous Jamaica will be difficult. □

UN official presses for panel on Duvalier

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A top UN official is backing the creation of a fact-finding commission to probe abuses during the 29-year-rule of Haiti's Duvalier family. Kyungwha Kang of the U.N.'s Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights says she fully supports an effort to establish a truth panel probing the Duvalier era that would "promote reconciliation." Jean-Claude Duvalier ruled Haiti from 1971 to 1986 after inheriting power from his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier. He was ousted in 1986 in a popular uprising against a regime widely considered brutal and corrupt. Victims under the Duvaliers' rule filed lawsuits against Jean-Claude after he abruptly returned to Haiti in January. Charges against him range from human rights abuses to embezzlement. □

Better lives for Mexicans cut allure of going north

DAMIEN CAVE

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AGUA NEGRA, Mexico — The extraordinary Mexican migration that delivered millions of illegal immigrants to the United States over the past 30 years has sputtered to a trickle, and research points to a surprising cause: Unheralded changes in Mexico have made staying home more attractive.

A growing body of evidence suggests that a mix of developments — expanding economic and educational opportunities, rising border crime and shrinking families — are suppressing illegal traffic as much as economic slowdowns or immigrant crackdowns in the United States.

Here in the red-earth highlands of Jalisco, one of Mexico's top three states for emigration over the past century, a new dynamic has emerged.

"I'm not going to go to the States because I'm more concerned with my studies," said Angel Orozco, 18.

For a typical rural family like the Orozcós, heading to El Norte without papers is no longer an inevitable rite of passage. Instead, their homes are filling up with returning relatives; older brothers who once crossed illegally are awaiting visas; and the youngest Orozcós are staying put.

"I'm not going to go to the States because I'm more concerned with my studies," said Angel Orozco, 18. Indeed, at the new technological institute where he is earning a degree in industrial engineering, all the students in a recent class said they were better educated than their parents — and that they planned to stay in Mexico rather than go

to the United States. Douglas S. Massey, co-director of the Mexican Migration Project at Princeton, an extensive, long-term survey in Mexican emigration hubs, said his research showed that interest in heading to the United States for the first time had fallen to its lowest level since at least the 1950s. "No one wants to hear it, but the flow has already stopped," Massey said, referring to illegal traffic.

"For the first time in 60 years, the net traffic has gone to zero and is probably a little bit negative." The decline in illegal immigration, from

the illegal Mexican population in the United States has shrunk and that fewer than 100,000 illegal border-crossers and visa-violators from Mexico settled in the United States in 2010, down from about 525,000 a year from 2000 to 2004. Although some advocates for more limited immigration say that the Pew estimates that do not include short-term migrants, most experts agree that far fewer illegal immigrants have been arriving in recent years. The question is why.

Experts and U.S. politicians from both parties have generally looked inward,



The governor of the state of Baja California, Jose Guadalupe Osuna Millan, third from left in the back table, sits with US Consul Steven Kashkett, second from left, and Tintos Finckle, representative of the tourism secretary, left, as he talks to survivors of the fishing boat that capsized in the town of San Felipe, Mexico, Tuesday July 5, 2011. Seven U.S. tourists are still missing two days after their boat capsized as the Mexican navy and the U.S. Coast Guard expanded their search in the Gulf of California, holding out hope that the missing were able to survive in the gulf's balmy waters.

(AP Photo/Francisco Vega)

a country responsible for roughly six of every 10 illegal immigrants in the United States, is stark.

The Mexican census recently discovered 4 million more people in Mexico than had been projected, which officials attributed to a sharp decline in emigration. U.S. census figures analyzed by the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center also show that

arguing about the success or failure of the buildup of border enforcement and tougher laws limiting illegal immigrants' rights — like those recently passed in Alabama and Arizona. Deportations have reached record highs as total border apprehensions and apprehensions of Mexicans have fallen by more than 70 percent since 2000. □

Violent presidential impeachment debate in Afghan Parliament

ALISSA J. RUBIN
SANGAR RAHIMI
© 2011 New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan – Members of the Afghan Parliament came to blows Tuesday as a majority for the first time began to discuss impeaching President Hamid Karzai, signaling the near-total breakdown of relations between the Parliament and the president as the country teeters on the brink of a constitutional crisis.

The dispute centers on the legality of a special court set up by Karzai to adjudicate allegations of fraud by candidates who lost their seats or were disqualified in last September's parliamentary elections. Two weeks ago the special court ruled that 62 members of the current Parliament should be replaced by those who brought challenges, many of whom are allies of the president.

Neither the country's election authorities nor the international community has recognized the court's authority, and the prospect of now having to give up their seats has enraged a large bloc of the current 249-seat Parliament. All of the legislators have already been sworn in. The fight between the Parliament and Karzai has halted the normal workings of government. Nine months after the elec-

tion, the president has yet to introduce a transitional government – or to submit proposed legislation for review. He has been ruling by decree and by allowing a number of acting ministers and acting supreme court justices to remain in

be present Tuesday as the impeachment discussion got under way with much shouting and banging on desks.

"The president is sick," said Mohammed Shafiq Shahir, a member of Parliament from Herat.



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, right, is welcomed by Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai, left, prior to their meeting at Karzai's Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday July 5, 2011.

(AP Photo/Leferis Pitarakis, pool)

charge.

The result is a situation in which the majority of the Parliament does not trust the president; he has lost trust in them as well as they have become more hostile and estranged. In clips of the session aired on the Afghan Tolo Television Network, most members of Parliament appeared to

He was drowned out by one of Karzai's defenders, a member of Parliament from Kandahar, Abdul Rahim Ayoubi. There was no substitute for the president, he argued. "Do we have an alternative for the president, do we have the knowledge and wisdom of running the country ourselves?" he asked. □

Speed of Panama Canal work heartens Houstonians

JENALIA MORENO
© 2010 Houston Chronicle
PANAMA CANAL, Panama

– Even Panama Canal expansion engineer Nicolas Solano is surprised by the speed at which the dirt around him is moving.

"It is impressive to me how fast this is changing," Solano said as he showed a group of Houstonians the expansion of one of the world's most important waterways. Construction of the canal's third lane and new set of locks broke ground on Sept. 3, 2007, and the \$5.2 billion project is scheduled to be complete by Oct. 20, 2014.

It's a source of pride for many Panamanians that the project be completed by the deadline. And there is a chance it will be done ahead of schedule.

"Construction is on time," said Alberto Aleman, the Panama Canal Authority's CEO. "There's a very nice incentive to accelerate and finish early." The contractor will receive a bonus of \$215,000 for each day the project comes in ahead of its scheduled completion, up to a total of \$50 million. The project is about a fourth of the way done now, and all of the major contracts have been let. Part of the construction project involves removing 150 million cubic meters of dirt and rock.

As he looked at the canal's existing Miraflores locks and

construction of the third lane, Jonathan Homeyer, a senior vice president at Wells Fargo in Houston, was most impressed by "the magnitude of the expansion, literally moving mountains." The Greater Houston Partnership recently led a trade mission of Houston business and political leaders to Panama to witness the construction, which has major implications for the Port of Houston.

These days, about 20 percent of the cargo containers that make their way to Houston come through the canal, and that could increase to 35 percent once the expansion is complete, Port of Houston Authority Chairman Jim Edmonds said. Accommodating the larger vessels that will be able to transit the canal will require dredging the Houston Ship Channel to a depth of 50 feet from 45 feet, among other projects. "We need to be ready because Panama is ready," said Houston City Controller Ronald Green, who was one of more than two dozen Houstonians participating in the trade mission.

Supersized vessels Ever since its completion in 1914, the Panama Canal has served as an important shortcut for vessels traveling between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, allowing them to avoid going around the tip of South America. □

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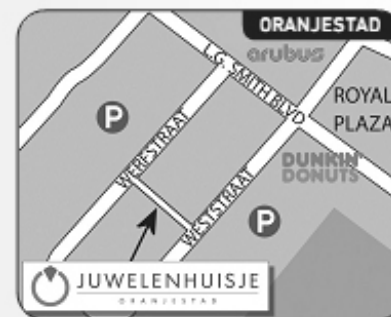
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Libyans describe furtive protests

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — Rebel sympathizers, driven underground by a security clampdown in Tripoli, have resorted to furtive protests such as writing "No" next to pro-government wall graffiti and releasing balloons with rebel flags attached, according to two Libyans who have escaped the capital. The two men spoke after reaching the eastern rebel stronghold of Benghazi, offering a rare snapshot of anti-government resistance in the capital. Tripoli residents, fearing regime reprisals, are generally reluctant to speak to foreign reporters based there who can only move with government minders and are almost never allowed access to rebel sympathizers. Rebels have seized eastern Libya, while Gadhafi clings to much of the rest of the country and is believed to be hunkering down in the capital, his main power base. Government troops loyal to Gadhafi have stepped up pressure in the past two days near the port city of Misrata and a key western mountain range to try to block rebel fighters from advancing toward Tripoli, rebels said Tuesday. They said at least 11 people were killed in fighting that began late Monday and continued the next day. □

Syrian siege may be crime against humanity



Protesters set fire to a Hezbollah flag, during an anti-Syrian regime rally near the Syrian embassy in Cairo, Egypt Tuesday, July 5, 2011. Syrian troops fired Tuesday on residents who set up makeshift roadblocks to prevent the advance of tanks ringing the city of Hama, which has become a flashpoint of the uprising against autocratic President Bashar Assad, activists said.

(AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian security forces may have committed crimes against humanity during a deadly siege in May, Amnesty International said Wednesday, citing witness accounts of deaths in custody, torture and arbitrary detention. The New York-based rights group called on the U.N. Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. The security sweep in Talkalakh, which lasted less than a week, contributed to a growing sense of desperation over the government's brutal crackdown on protests as the nationwide

uprising against President Bashar Assad's authoritarian regime gained traction. At the time of the operation, The Associated Press interviewed residents who told of a catastrophic scene in the town of about 70,000, including sectarian killings, gunmen carrying out execution-style slayings and the stench of decomposing bodies in the streets. Some activists have said the death toll from the May siege was as high as 36 people. "The accounts we have heard from witnesses to events in (Talkalakh) paint a deeply disturbing picture of systematic, targeted abuses to crush dissent," said Philip Luther,

Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Deputy Director. The report issued Wednesday said the attacks "appear to be part of a widespread, as well as systematic, attack against the civilian population," which would constitute crimes against humanity. Talkalakh is just across the border from Lebanon. Amnesty quoted witnesses as saying Syrian forces fired on fleeing families and ambulances carrying the wounded; one witness said soldiers stabbed lit cigarettes on the backs of detainees' necks. At least nine people died in custody, witnesses told Amnesty. Eight of them were shot at and wounded as they were ordered out of a house, and were then taken away by soldiers. Amnesty cited interviews carried out in Lebanon and

by phone with more than 50 people. The rights group, along with most foreign media, has not been allowed to enter Syria. The 14-week uprising against Assad has proved resilient despite a deadly government crackdown that has brought international condemnation and sanctions. Assad is facing the most serious challenge to his family's four decades of rule in Syria. Activists say security forces have killed more than 1,400 people — most of them unarmed protesters — since mid-March. The regime disputes the toll, blaming "armed thugs" and foreign conspirators for the unrest. According to Amnesty, some of the family members who went to identify the bodies of their sons in Talkalakh were forced to sign a document stating that their sons were killed by armed gangs. □

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late show: 11:15

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late show: 11:00

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matinee: 11:30 **SP R**
late show: 11:30

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matinee: 1:30
late show: 11:30 **SP PG**

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matinee: 1:00 - 3:15
late show: 12:00 **R**

KUNG FU PANDA
daily: 5:00
matinee: 12:30 - 2:45 **SP PG**
late show: 11:15

MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
daily: 4:00 - 6:45 - 9:15
matinee: 1:15
late show: 11:45 **PG**

HANGOVER 2
daily: 7:15 - 9:45
matinee: 12:00 **SP R**
late show: 12:00

CARS 2 IN 3D
daily: 6:00 - 8:30
matinee: 1:00 - 3:30 **SP PG**
late show: 11:00

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A fun weekend to enjoy all things Phish

SETH SCHIESEL

© 2011 New York Times

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. – When your friend volunteers to work at a music festival in exchange for a ticket and ends up with the title of “Good Vibe Regulator” at a custom-built all-night disco bar modeled after a giant pinball machine, you know you’ve ended up someplace pretty cool. Last weekend that meant Super Ball IX, the ninth festival by Phish, the eclectically funky rock quartet.

There aren’t many rock bands anymore that make tens of thousands of people want to camp out in tents over a holiday weekend. And there aren’t many rock bands anymore that can play for 13 hours, 17 minutes and 22 seconds over three days and genuinely leave those fans wanting more. Yet as live concerts come to supplant album sales as the linchpin of the pop music industry, there aren’t many bands with as consistently fervent a touring audience as Phish. And there may be

21 grossing touring act in North America last year (ranked at \$33.5 million, between Taylor Swift and “Walking With Dinosaurs”). But beyond the numbers, what makes Phish unique in the music business is the scale and focus of its festivals.

The likes of Bonnaroo, Coachella, Jazzfest in New Orleans and Lollapalooza are all about bringing together dozens if not hundreds of acts; the festival itself, not any particular artist, is the star brand. Meanwhile, smaller bands like moe. and the Disco Biscuits enlist extensive rosters of other artists to fill out their own summertime events. By contrast, a Phish festival is all about Phish. No opening acts. No other bands. Just Phish.

But that’s just the music. Beyond the stage, the diversions at Super Ball IX included – take a deep breath – a Ferris wheel; the Runaway Jim Memorial 5K race (named for one of the band’s songs); bocce and

remix and download Phish tracks; unamplified marching bands parading around the site (OK, so there was a bit of other music); a giant screen showing everything

fashion the evolution of U.S. industrialism from the turn of the 19th century to today. (A hint: It culminates in an endless proliferation of self-storage units to house the

have worried. Frankly it’s hard to imagine any paid music event in the United States attracting a Summer Jam-scale crowd anymore. And so Phish’s Super Ball



Trey Anastasio, guitarist and singer for the band Phish, performs during Super Ball IX, at Watkins Glen International raceway, in Watkins Glen, N.Y., July 2, 2011. Most festivals compile many musical acts, sometimes hundreds, but at Super Ball IX, the ninth festival put on by Phish, is all about one band, Phish.
(Guy Solimano/The New York Times)



Fans cheer as the band Phish performs during Super Ball IX, at Watkins Glen International raceway, in Watkins Glen, N.Y., July 2, 2011.

(Guy Solimano/The New York Times)

no band in the world that goes to lengths as extravagant as Phish does to provide a multiday entertainment experience. According to Pollstar, the concert industry trade publication, Phish was the No.

Wiffle Ball tournaments; a Pamplona re-enactment (with some fans as runners and others as bulls); an on-site radio station, called the Bunny, broadcasting on satellite, online and AM; a tent full of computers to

from “Caddyshack” on Friday afternoon to the Wimbledon finals Saturday and Sunday mornings; and not least, an expansive interactive art installation called “Ball Square” that traced in whimsically subversive

worthless detritus of modern consumer society.) In other words, a Phish festival is a distinctly phantasmagoric summer fair for adults who happen to enjoy getting down to improvisational rock grooves. Given the timing on Fourth of July weekend, it made sense that the theme of Super Ball was a slightly twisted sense of Americana. And so it didn’t hurt that the site here was Watkins Glen International, a famous raceway not only for gearheads but for classic rock fans as well. That’s because before last weekend the last time any serious music happened here was the legendary 1973 Summer Jam, which attracted 600,000 people to the race-track for a one-day blow-out featuring the Band, the Allman Brothers Band and the Grateful Dead. It took this town in the Finger Lakes region 38 years to recover and agree to play host to another rock festival. But Watkins Glen needn’t

had to content itself with a respectable if relatively modest 30,000. Strictly as a business decision, scheduling the festival on Independence Day weekend was clearly a mistake, especially since the band had played 18 other concerts on the East Coast and in the Midwest since Memorial Day weekend. Staged in late August, Super Ball may well have doubled in size. Yet despite, or perhaps because of, the smaller crowd, Super Ball IX felt in many ways like a redemptive experience for both the band and its fans. Phish’s most recent East Coast festival, Coventry in Vermont in 2004, was an outright disaster of horrendous weather (think oceans of mud), insufficient logistics preparation, drug abuse and poorly played music. It other words, it was a bad trip on many, many levels. After Coventry, Phish broke up for four and half years before returning in 2009. □



The Aruba Hi-Winds Pro-Aruba 25th Annual event

Aruba & Venezuela come out on top overall



FISHERMAN'S HUTS – The last day of racing of the 2011 Aruba Hi-Winds Pro-Am 25th edition has come with a fantastic prize giving ceremony at the Paseo Herencia Mall. For the last two weeks some of the best watermen and women have been sailing the perfect conditions that Aruba has to offer.

The PWA professionals have headed off to the next event on the Professional World Tour and the amateurs just finished competing for the overall positions

on Monday. The overall winner in the Men's Division is Diony Guadagnino from Venezuela and Nicole van der Velde of Aruba won the overall Aruba Hi-Winds Championship title in the Woman's division.

Other top competitors rising to the top of the fleet in first place are Nik v/d Eerenbeemt of Aruba in the Big Kids, Patun Saragoza of Bonaire in the Grand Masters, Ethan Westera of Aruba in the Juniors, Etienne Soliano of Bonaire in the Masters,

and Oscar Cisneros of Venezuela in Sports.

Results:

King of the Huts

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Davis Paternina – Venezuela
Victor Waderfors – Curacao

Prince of Huts

Felix Martina - Curacao
Rafael de Windt - Curacao
Berend Pronk – Aruba

Kids of Huts

Steven Max - Aruba
Nik v/d Eerenbeemt - Aruba
Ethan Westera – Aruba



Christina Moran and William Gilmartin are wed



PALM BEACH -- Christina Moran and William Gilmartin said their "I do"s at sunset on the beach of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. The newlyweds, from New Jersey, were surrounded by 29 family members and friends, who made the trip to Aruba to witness the emotive blessing on the waterfront followed by dinner by torch-



light on the tropical pool deck of the resort with local and international special-

ties, including surf & turf, grilled Filet Mignon and broiled Lobster Tail, chase



by delicious three-tiered wedding cake. Pictured here, snapshots from a perfect event, orchestrated by the resort's wedding specialist Lisa Dammerman. □



Aruhiba, The 1 and Only Homemade Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till

8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores.

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Pizza & Ice Cream Party celebrates high MEDALLIA scores



PALM BEACH – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa threw a fun Pizza & Ice Cream party on Friday, to celebrate having achieved the highest Guest Satisfaction Scores

among full-service hotels of the international chain, in the first quarter of the year. "Congratulations to all colleagues at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa" says General Manag-

er Rob Smith, "They jointly achieved the highest GSI improvement over last year at +0.53 and they had the highest GSI score for full service hotels at 8.66 this quarter, the team will enjoy the pineapple trophy in addition to a corporate allowance, earmarked

for a fun team event!" MEDALLIA polls guest satisfaction scores among owned and managed Carlson Hotels, eliciting guests' comments and

remarks and publishing ratings every quarter. Pictured here the winners enjoying their party, served by the executive committee of the resort. □

Attending the Women in Leadership Conference

Salamander Group Leadership Team is committed to Personal Growth



PALM BEACH – This past week, the supervisors and managers at the helm at the Salamander Group attended the Women in Leadership Conference organized by ATIA and Caribbean Mercantile Bank. Team members were invited by Managing Director Jodi Tobman to benefit from the learning opportunity and to connect with a great number of local female professionals. Among those attending were Marlene Nichols and Jodi Tobman, Operations Manager Alma Tagorda, Supervisors Julie Par-

tosemito, Digna Torres and Rowena Banal, and Team Leaders Stephanie Mundle, Gabriela Ribbink Gonzalez and Karin Kalter. Rowena who celebrated her 7th year anniversary with The Salamander Group that day, was warmly congratulated by her peers for seven years of professional growth. "I'm thankful," she told her colleagues, "for the opportunity to come to the conference but most of all I am grateful for the opportunity given to me as one of the leaders of the company, where I've



learned, inspired and enjoyed." "It's such a pleasure to work with these highly motivated women," says Jodi Tobman, "they are all enthusiastic and committed to creating a better company, and a better life for themselves and their family members." At the end of a day of intelligent speakers and well-prepared presentations, Stephanie Mundle summed it up nicely. It was her first conference, in which she experienced the presence of so many women of strength and pow-

er and that she enjoyed the materials, food for her mind and her soul. "No one succeeds alone," she concluded, "If we have the commitment, we seek support & inspiration, attaining professional and emotion growth, balanced with strong family and social ties, fueling our resolve to attain even further successes." Pictured here The Salamander Group leadership team, managing a number of fine retail stores in the tourist areas, The Juggling Fish, The Lazy Lizard, The Coconut Trading Co. and T.H. Palm & Company. □

HOW HIGH IS YOUR AMBITION?



Insel AirAruba is a new Aruba-based airline. Insel AirAruba will operate direct flights between Aruba and other destinations. Insel AirAruba is recruiting for exciting cabin crew positions to operate the MD-80 and Fokker-50 Insel AirAruba aircrafts.

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Retired NFL players say they are being excluded

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, left, and National Football League Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith, right, speak to the media outside of the Ritz-Carlton hotel after addressing players during the NFLPA rookie symposium on Wednesday, June 29, 2011 in Sarasota, Fla.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY



Stage winner Cadel Evans of Australia, right, and three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador of Spain, second right, and Philippe Gilbert of Belgium, wearing the best climber's dotted jersey, far left, sprint towards the finish line to win the fourth stage of the Tour de France.

Associated Press

Evans wins 4th Tour de France stage

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

MUR-DE-BRETAGNE, France (AP) — Cadel Evans edged out defending champion Alberto Contador in a photo finish Tuesday to win the fourth stage of the Tour de France, and Thor Hushovd retained the overall lead. The mostly flat 172.5-kilometer (107-mile) course from Lorient to Mur-de-Bretagne with a short, steep uphill finish epitomized two race aspects so far: Evans has been nearly flawless, and Contador — who hasn't — can never be ruled out. The nail-biting finale by was so close that Contador raised a fist to celebrate what the three-time Tour champ believed was his victory, but a photograph at the line showed Evans, an Australian two-time runner-up, had won by mere millimeters.

Continued on Next Page

KNEED OUT



Recovering Woods to skip British Open

Tiger Woods takes a second drop on the fourth hole during the first round of The Players Championship golf tournament Thursday May 12, 2011, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Woods withdrew from the tournament after nine holes.

Associated Press
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MLS Roundup

Perk helps Galaxy extend unbeaten streak to 11

CARSON, California (AP) — Brian Perk stopped a penalty in his Major League Soccer debut to help the Los Angeles Galaxy to a 0-0 draw with Seattle Sounders on Monday and extend their unbeaten streak to 11 matches.

The Galaxy leads the MLS with 36 points and hasn't lost since May 1.

Perk was drafted into the starting lineup with regular starting goalkeeper Donovan Ricketts out with a broken arm and backup Josh Saunders serving a suspension. He blocked Fredy Montero's penalty attempt in the 18th minute for his first save in the MLS.

The Sounders, third in the

Western Conference only four points behind Los Angeles, had their three-game winning streak halted but still matched a club record with their seventh straight game without loss. Real Salt Lake 3, Revolution 3

At Sandy, Utah, Fabian Espindola scored an equalizer in the 83rd minute as 10-man Real Salt Lake twice came from behind to salvage a 3-3 draw.

RSL defender Nat Borchers was red carded in the 3rd minute after a foul on Revolution midfielder Benny Feilhaber in the box.

Rajko Lekic converted the resulting penalty to give New England the lead and



Seattle Sounders FC forward Fredy Montero prepares for a bicycle kick as he is defended by Los Angeles Galaxy's Omar Gonzalez during the first half of an MLS soccer match, Monday, July 4, 2011, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

Chris Tiereny made it 2-0 in the 16th minute.

Will Johnson scored in the 14th minute and Alvaro Sa-

borio equalized in the 56th for RSL. Shalrie Joseph put New England ahead again in the 63rd but the Revolu-

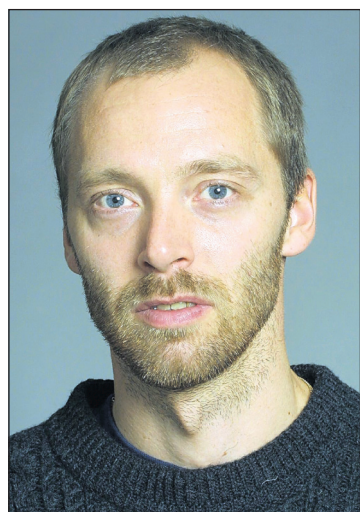
tion, last in the Eastern Conference with 16 points and just three wins, was unable to hang on for the victory. □

Finnish Olympic ski champ Myllyla dies at 41

HELSINKI (AP) — One of Finland's most successful skiers, former Olympic cross-country champion Mika Myllyla, has died at age 41. Police said Myllyla was found dead on Tuesday, but declined to give any details except to say no crime was involved.

National broadcaster YLE said he was found dead in his apartment in the north-western town of Kokkola, and the cause of death wasn't immediately known. Myllyla won six Olympic medals, including gold in the classical 30-kilometer race at the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics. He'd won a silver in the 50-kilometer race in the 1994 Lillehammer Games, and shared four bronzes over both Olympics.

He also won four world championships. However, his career virtually ended when he tested positive for doping in the 2001 world championships and received a two-year ban together with five other Finnish skiers. Myllyla later made a comeback to competitive racing but



Finnish Olympic cross country skier Mika Myllyla is seen in this 2001 file photo.

Associated Press

failed to qualify again for the Finland team, and retired in 2005.

After the doping conviction, his private life became turbulent, with reported alcohol abuse. He was convicted of drunk driving in 2008 and of three assaults in 2010.

In Finland, Myllyla was known for his unwavering stamina and unconventional training methods such as summer training on swamps. □

TOUR

Continued from Page 17

Still, the ride left little doubt that Contador, who has faced a series of early setbacks already, is in shape to compete. With his second-place finish, he regained several seconds against other some likely title contenders.

"I still can't quite believe it ... It was a very close final, I didn't even know if I had it on the line myself," Evans said. "To win in front of Alberto Contador is really a nice present."

But the Spaniard's strong finish demonstrated "Contador again proving himself. He was up there and riding well," Evans said. "He's never a guy you can underestimate."

It was the first in-competition Tour stage win for Evans in seven appearances, though he inherited a stage victory in 2007 after Alexandre Vinokourov was barred in a team doping scandal. It was also the first Tour stage victory for an Australian since Simon Gerrans won Stage 15 finishing at Italy's Prato Nevoso in 2008.



Hushovd, the Norwegian world champion and known mainly as a sprint specialist, narrowly kept the race leader's yellow jersey by trailing not far behind in a small breakaway group.

"My only goal today was to keep the yellow jersey," said Hushovd, of Garmin-Cervelo. "I had a great day ... I will do all I can to defend this jersey as long as possible." Evans clocked 4 hours, 11 minutes, 39 seconds — the same time as Contador, third-place Vinokourov and Hushovd, who came sixth. Overall, Hushovd held on to a one-second lead over Evans.

Frank Schleck of Luxembourg rose to third place from seventh by staying with the seven-man group,

including Evans and Contador, though he didn't gain any time on Hushovd and is 4 seconds back overall.

Contador remains 1:42 behind Hushovd in 41st place after two dismal opening days at the Tour, first being stalled by a crash on Saturday and then losing time with his Saxo Bank squad in the team time trial on Sunday.

But the Spaniard finished Tuesday 8 seconds faster than possibly his biggest overall rival — Andy Schleck, Frank's younger brother and the Tour runner-up for the past two years.

It was a message not lost on Andy Schleck. "Losing seven seconds (sic) (to Contador) isn't good, but it's not a catastrophe," he said. □



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Woods to skip British Open as leg recovers

DOUG FERGUSON**AP Golf Writer****JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP)**

— Those “minor” injuries to his left leg now have kept Tiger Woods from playing in two majors.

In an announcement on his website Tuesday that came as no surprise, Woods said he would skip the British Open next week because his injuries have not fully healed.

“Unfortunately, I’ve been advised that I should not play in the British Open,” Woods said. “As I stated at the AT&T National, I am only going to come back when I’m 100 percent ready. I do not want to risk further injury. That’s different for me, but I’m being smarter this time.”

“I’m very disappointed and want to express my regrets to the British Open fans.”

It will be the second time in the last four years that Woods has missed two majors in one season. He did not play the British Open and PGA Championship in 2008 while recovering from reconstructive surgery on his left knee. These injuries are not as easy to describe. Woods said in May that he suffered “minor injuries” to knee ligaments and his Achilles while hitting from an awkward stance in the pine straw on the 17th hole in the third round at the Masters. Afterward, he skipped the Wells Fargo Championship and with-

drew after nine holes from The Players Championship a week later.

Woods said last week it was a mistake to go to The Players, and that had he waited, he would be playing golf right now.

“In hindsight, I probably shouldn’t have competed at The Players, but it’s a big event, and I wanted to be there to support the tour,” he said. “I’ve got to learn from what I did there and do it right this time and not come back until I’m ready.”

Woods didn’t say whether he expected to play in the final major, the PGA Championship, which starts Aug. 11 at the Atlanta Athletic Club. As he mentioned last week at Aronimink, he doesn’t have any idea when he will compete next. He said he has not hit golf balls since May 12 at the TPC Sawgrass.

Woods also indicated at Aronimink that his chances of playing the British Open were remote — taking some of the surprise out of Tuesday’s announcement.

“I wouldn’t go over there just to show up,” he said. “I’d go over there to win the golf tournament, so I need to obviously get my body ready so I can practice and eventually play.” Woods was replaced at Royal St. George’s by Jason Dufner, who said on Twitter, “Looks like I am getting in the open champion-



Tiger Woods at the AT&T National golf tournament at the Aronimink Golf Club in this Tuesday, June 28, 2011 file photo, in Newtown Square, Pa.

Associated Press

ship, I am excited!”

Brendan Jones was the next alternate, but the Australian told the Royal & Ancient he would not be able to play because his wife is expecting their first child. “It’s unfortunate for the game of golf and it’s more unfortunate for him,” three-time major champion Padraig Harrington said. “He still is the name we would look out for the most. It’s not that we want him to turn up and win, but it would be nice to have him there and bring the buzz he does. Let’s just hope it’s not that bad — it’s a long time for that injury — and that he fully recovers.” Woods called R&A chief executive Peter Dawson to personally tell him he would

not be playing.

“I know how disappointed Tiger is not to be able to play in the Open this year,” Dawson said. “Naturally, we are sorry that a player of his caliber isn’t able to join us at Royal St. George’s, but we wish him well in his recovery and hope to see him back soon, competing in front of the fans that love to see him play the game.” Woods tied for fourth in the 2003 British Open at Royal St. George’s, where he started with a two-shot penalty when he couldn’t find his opening tee shot in the rough. He wound up two shots behind Ben Curtis.

Woods has slipped to No. 17 in the world, and is like-

ly to be out of the top 20 after the British Open. He also is No. 116 in the FedEx Cup standings on the PGA Tour, and only the top 125 qualify for the playoffs. If he doesn’t return for the PGA Championship, he wouldn’t be eligible for any PGA Tour events until October. Asked last week if he would be surprised he didn’t play another tournament the rest of the year, Woods said, “I’d be very surprised, because I’m progressing.” But he’s not making enough progress to play in the tournaments that mean the most to him. Woods remains on 14 career majors, four short of matching the record set by Jack Nicklaus. □

SPORTS BRIEFS

HBO to air documentary about Jeter

NEW YORK (AP) — HBO will broadcast a documentary about Derek Jeter's pursuit of career hit No. 3,000.



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter runs out a ground ball in the first inning in a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians, Monday, July 4, 2011, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Major League Baseball Productions is following the Yankees captain for a one-hour special called "Derek Jeter 3K." The network said Tuesday that Jeter agreed to let camera crews follow him at home and while he was rehabilitating a recent calf injury.

The documentary will include new interviews with family, friends and teammates. Also interviewed will be Jeter's girlfriend, Minka Kelly, and Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner. The program will air a few weeks after Jeter reaches the milestone.

The shortstop was at 2,994 hits after returning from the disabled list Monday and going hitless against Cleveland. □

Player to be an honorary starter

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — The original "Big Three" will be together again on the first tee at Augusta National next year.

Gary Player has agreed to join Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus as an honorary starter at the Masters. They have 13 green jackets among them. The last time they were on the opening tee together was in 2001, when they played in the same group over the first two rounds. Next year, they will hit only one shot in a ceremonial start to the tournament.

The tradition of an honorary starter at the Masters began in 1963.

Palmer first accepted the role in 2007, and Nicklaus joined him in 2010. The last time the Masters had three honorary starters was in 1999 with Gene Sarazen, Byron Nelson and Sam Snead. □

Levet breaks shin jumping in lake

INVERNESS, Scotland (AP)

— Thomas Levet could miss next week's British Open after breaking his shin jumping into a lake to celebrate his victory at the French Open. The former Ryder Cup player has a cast on his leg as a result of his exuberant celebrations at the 18th hole at Le Golf National on Sunday, ruling him out of the Scottish Open starting at Castle Stuart on Thursday.

The 42-year-old Levet's management company, IMG, says he is receiving "intense treatment to the fracture" and will consult with a specialist this week in a bid to make the Open.

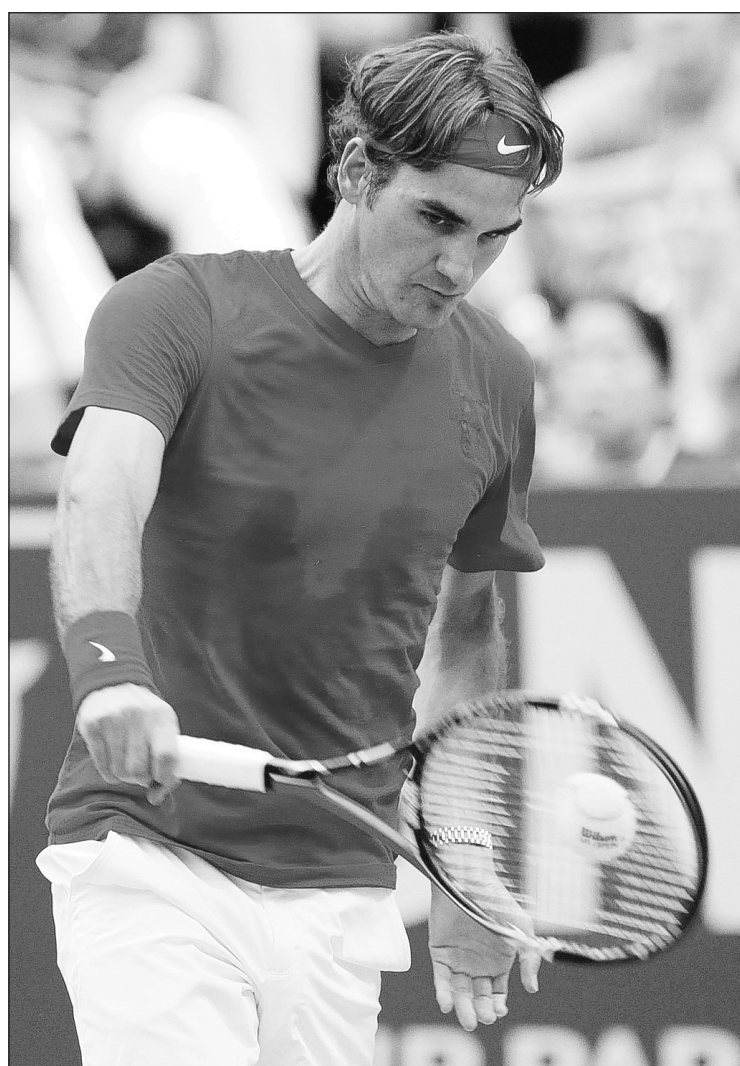
Levet leapt into a lake after beating England's Mark Foster and Dane Thorbjorn Olesen by a shot, ending his 25-year wait to win his home championship. □



Thomas Levet of France poses with his trophy after winning the French Golf Open, at the Golf National in Saint Quentin en Yvelines, west of Paris, Sunday, July 3, 2011.

Associated Press

Federer says Djokovic deserves No. 1 ranking



Swiss Davis Cup tennis player Roger Federer returns a ball during a practice session in Bern, Switzerland, Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

Associated Press

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

BERN, Switzerland (AP) —

Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic's rise to become the top-ranked player in the world is good for tennis, according to the only player who has beaten him this year.

Roger Federer said Tuesday that Djokovic — whose record is 48-1 in 2011 — has earned his success.

"He deserves to become No. 1 after an immense start to the year," said third-ranked Federer, who defeated the 24-year-old Serb in the French Open semifinals. "When you lose

so rarely, your confidence carries you a long way."

The 29-year-old Federer said it wasn't a big surprise that Djokovic dethroned Rafael Nadal after having beaten the former top-ranked Spaniard in four previous finals in 2011.

"And he's proved before at Wimbledon that he can play on grass," Federer said ahead of Friday's start to Switzerland's Davis Cup tie against Portugal. "It's good for tennis that it happened."

Despite Sunday's final promising to write a significant chapter in modern tennis history, the six-time

Wimbledon champion did not watch it at home in Switzerland.

"Unfortunately, I wasn't able to watch the final, but for sure it was being played at a very high level," he said.

Federer lost in the quarterfinals to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France. The five-set defeat was the first time he wasted a two-set lead in a Grand Slam singles match, and just the third such reverse in his career.

The first came against former No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt in the 2003 Davis Cup semifinals against Australia — the closest Federer has come to lifting the trophy.

Since then, Federer has won all 12 singles matches on national duty, the most recent against Italy in September 2009 to help keep Switzerland in the elite 16-nation world group.

The Swiss were relegated after losing last year to Spain and then Kazakhstan, when national hero Federer received rare criticism for skipping the tie.

"If I'm playing, it's a priority," Federer said. "Our priority is to get back into the world group."

Switzerland must beat Portugal over five matches on indoor hard courts at PostFinance Arena to earn a playoff tie in September.

Federer and 15th-ranked Stanislas Wawrinka are heavily favored to beat clay-court specialists Frederico Gil and Rui Machado, ranked 90th and 93rd respectively, in Friday's opening singles.

"One thing they have is that they have nothing to lose," Portugal captain Pedro Cordeiro said of his team. "Everyone expects Switzerland to win the match." □

ATP tour purse to soar to \$90M by 2014

LONDON (AP) — Prize money at the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals will increase by 30 percent over the next three years, helping take overall remuneration on the men's professional tennis tour to about \$90 million.

The ATP says that it is raising prize money across all its tournaments, with masters events going up by 9 percent by 2014.

Prize money at the World Tour Finals will go

up from \$5 million to \$6.5 million and the bonus pool paid to the top 12-ranked players will be boosted 33 percent from \$6 million to \$8 million. ATP executive chairman and president Adam Helfant says "we are privileged to be experiencing a golden era in men's professional tennis and it is fitting that the commitment and excellence of the players is recognized and rewarded in this way." □



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Retired NFL players say they're being excluded

JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — While NFL owners and players appear to be inching toward a resolution of the league's long lockout, a group of retired players is clamoring to be more involved in the discussions.

The group filed a class-action complaint against the owners and current players in federal court Monday, saying they have been excluded from the mediation sessions taking place in an attempt to end the lockout. Named plaintiffs including Hall of Famers Carl Eller, Franco Harris, Marcus Allen and Paul Krause are asking U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson to put a halt to the mediation she ordered and declare that the current players cannot negotiate on behalf of those who are retired.

Owners and current players have met five times over the last few weeks as they work to put together a new collective bargaining agreement in time to avoid the loss of training camps and games. They met with U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur J. Boylan in Minneapolis last week, including for more than 15 hours on Thursday, and will resume meetings on Tuesday in New York.

The retired players say that NFL owners, the NFL Players' Association and a group of current players including star quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees are "conspiring to depress the amounts of pension and disability benefits to be paid to former NFL players in order to maximize the salaries and benefits to current NFL players."

The NFL declined comment on the complaint, which was first reported by the New York Times. The Associated Press left a message for an NFLPA spokesman seeking comment.

The complaint gets to the heart of an issue that has been building for quite some time. Retired players have felt marginalized in the dispute over how to divide more than \$9 billion in revenue.

After the owners locked out the players in March, the NFLPA disbanded and a group of them sued the league for antitrust violations. A small group of retired players, including Eller, Obafemi Ayanbadejo and Ryan Collins, filed their own lawsuit against the league seeking more help for medical treatments of former players and better pensions. Nelson combined the two lawsuits, and several representatives of the retired players, including Eller and attorney Michael Hausfeld were present at early mediation sessions in Minneapolis.

But as talks have heated up and the venue has shifted from the Twin Cities to Maryland, Massachusetts, Illinois and back to Minneapolis again over the last month or so, the retired players have not been present.

This hasn't sit well with them, and lawyers for the group have sent letters to Boylan, lobbied Commissioner Roger Goodell and held intense media briefings to make their feelings known.

The complaint said the players' decision to decertify their union makes it an antitrust violation for the owners and current players to negotiate for retired players. □

NL Roundup

Pirates beat Astros 5-3, are 3 games over .500



Pittsburgh Pirates' Josh Harrison, right, collides with Houston Astros catcher Carlos Corporan and is tagged out attempting to score in the second inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh Monday, July 4, 2011. Harrison was attempting to score on a single to right field by Pirates' Alex Presley. Harrison was shaken up on the play, and left the game after playing another inning.

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Rookie Alex Presley had three of Pittsburgh's 14 hits and the Pirates moved three games over .500 this late in the season for the first time in 12 years with a 5-3 win over the Houston Astros on Monday. A day after matching a season high for hits with 16, the Pirates' offense had 13 off Houston's Brett Myers (3-8) — the most he's allowed in 234 career starts. Chase d'Arnaud, Garrett Jones, Neil Walker and Lyle Overbay each had two hits for Pittsburgh, which played in front of its fourth consecutive home sellout — another sign of how rare it is for the Pirates to be in contention.

Paul Maholm (5-9) allowed one earned run in six innings for the Pirates.

Nationals 5, Cubs 4, 10 innings

At Washington, Jayson Werth turned boos to

driguez. Werth scored and was mobbed by his teammates. Henry Rodriguez (3-1) pitched the 10th for the win.

Phillies 1, Marlins 0

At Miami, Vance Worley pitched seven sharp innings and Philadelphia scored the only run on a close play in the seventh to beat Florida. Michael Martinez, playing for an injured Shane Victorino, got his fifth RBI with a single to center. A sliding Domonic Brown barely beat the throw home, although a TV replay appeared to show he was out. The Marlins argued only briefly, but twice had a player ejected for disputing other calls.

Worley (4-1) allowed two singles and walked two while lowering his ERA to 2.21 in 10 games. Antonio Bastardo pitched a hitless ninth for his fifth save to complete a two-hitter for the Phillies, who lead the majors with 13 shutouts.

In other NL games it was Washington 5, Chicago Cubs 4, 10 innings; Pittsburgh 5, Houston 3; Arizona 8, Milwaukee 6; San Diego 5, San Francisco 3; Philadelphia 1, Florida 0; St. Louis 1, Cincinnati 0; Atlanta 4, Colorado 1; and N.Y. Mets 5, L.A. Dodgers 2. □

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Looking Good

By: Dr Carlos Viana

With my second book, Prescriptions from Paradise, on its way to be printed, new pictures had to be taken for the cover and promotional material. In preparation of the picture taking I was sent off to endure a day at the spa. A full body scrub, facial, manicure, and pedicure later, I was then fussed over by two gorgeous women who straightened and aligned me for the best photo angle. Yes, I do lead a pampered life.

As we can see around us, age is no barrier to wanting to look good nor is one society more conceited than another. People of both sexes', ages, and different countries want to look good. Consequently, the desire to enhance one's image has worldwide appeal. Looking good outside makes us more attractive. What many people do not realize is the signs of looking good on the outside are a reflection of vibrant health. So, what we find attractive in others is that unconsciously we feel they are healthy people.

However, many people rely too much on the tricks of the spa, makeup and clothes. Many people believe they can afford to disregard a healthy lifestyle as long as they have a plastic surgeon, a salon and a day spa telephone number. Many, wanting to be thinner, get liposuction. Others, with thinning hair run off to the salon for extensions. When nails become brittle, acrylic nails are a phone call away.

What most of us fail to recognize is that negative changes in our skin, hair and nails are our body's way of screaming for help. We want to know the newest beauty treatments way before we teach ourselves how to listen to our bodies. The simplest fact is, what keeps you clean and healthy on the inside will keep you looking good on the outside. Simple lifestyle changes can help you keep you looking young and fresh without costing you an arm and a leg.

If you want clean and clear skin, drink more water. Your kidneys remove waste products that must be dissolved by water. By drinking a liter of water a day for every thirty kilos of your body weight you are flushing out the toxins that normally would escape through the pores of your skin. This prevents pimples and blemishes and helps keep the skin moisture level even.

The optimum cleanser, colon hydrotherapy, is a treatment and preventative measure we introduced in our clinic, where for the past decade, this natural procedure has effected small miracles. Patients once ill and despondent excitedly report, in addition to relief from the symptoms that plagued them, renewed vigor and vitality, softer and more radiant skin, increased sex drive, mental clarity, and even a sense of emotional and spiritual well-being.

Colon hydrotherapy cleanses the large intestine above the rectum all the way to the cecum, on the lower right side of the abdomen. The patient lies comfortably on his or her back or side while the therapist gently infuses warm, filtered water into the rectum through a tube attached to the colonics machine. As the water flows through the colon, it removes excess gas, mucus, and hardened fecal matter.

It is hard to imagine the amount of money that is spent to look like people have shiny abundant hair. Protein fortifies the hair and promotes its growth, yet, it is important to note that not every metabolic type or blood type should be eating the same protein. Vitamin A is good for preventing dry skin and dry hair. Food sources of vitamin A are carrots, dark leafy greens and sweet potatoes. Omega-3 fatty acids also helps prevent dry hair.

Omega-3 fatty acids, found in wild salmon, mackerel, walnuts and flaxseed, are great for the skin. Omega-3 fatty acids help decrease inflammation; which can damage the collagen in the skin, causing wrinkles, prevent dryness in the skin. It also adds moisture, leading to healthier looking skin and strong nails by preventing cracking.

Brittle nails and also those unattractive little white spots on nails is a sure sign of zinc deficiency. Zinc is needed for a multitude of functions,

including tissue repair, wound healing, maintenance of night vision, taste acuity and hormone production. Zinc-rich foods are shellfish and lean red meats. Pumpkin seeds provide one of the most concentrated vegetarian food sources of zinc.

Brittle fingernails are often a sign of iron deficiency. Iron comes from both animal and plant sources. I do not recommend iron supplements. Instead, iron is found abundantly in lean red meats and deep green vegetables like spinach. However, many people, especially those with type A and AB blood many times lack the digestive juices to extract the iron from their foods. Including vitamin C from citrus foods or food supplements helps absorb iron from in the digestive tract.

With guidance from a certified clinical nutritionist and from the results from your blood test, your outside can develop a strong, blemish free foundation; a foundation that a day at the spa will enhance. Getting the right balance of important nutrients takes some forethought and planning, but it's not difficult, and it certainly does not condemn you to an uninteresting menu. Additionally, organic food based supplements will complement the good food that you are eating according to your blood type.

Get The Point! For the record, I'm not opposed to a little nip and tuck or the tricks of a great spa. However, I do think it's unwise to ignore your body's pleas in favor of instant gratification. I always tell my patients to listen and



pay attention to their bodies. You are the best judge of the changes your body is going through. Want some help feeling good both inside and out?

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio (The Barefoot Doctor), appears regularly on local TV and writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, (Monday's: Noord, Bubali 11M) TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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M-Sat at Kibaima 7
(St. Cruz, opposite the Drive-in)

Mon. at Rejuvenate Medi-Spa
(Bubali 5 min. from the hotels)

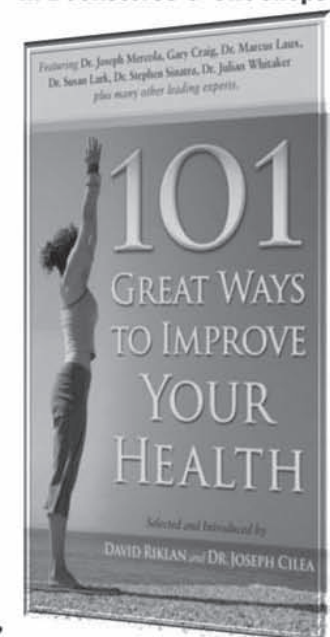
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Carlos Viana, O.M.D., C.N.N.

Netflix to stream movies, shows in Latin America

LOS GATOS, California (AP)

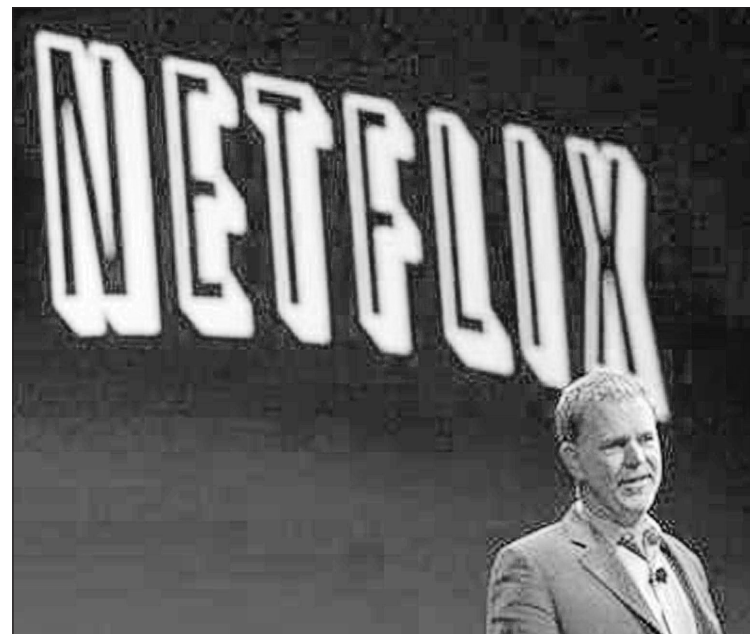
— Netflix is expanding its movie and TV show streaming service into 43 countries

throughout Latin America in the online movie rental company's largest international expansion yet.

Analysts said the expansion was larger than expected. The company's stock hit an all-time high of \$283.50 in morning trading Tuesday. Netflix Inc. subscribers in Mexico, South and Central America and the Caribbean will be able to watch TV shows and movies streamed on a wide range of gadgets starting this year.

The company did not announce a pricing plan or say exactly when the service will be available. In the U.S., a streaming subscription costs \$8 a month and customers can pay slightly more to get DVDs in the mail.

As is the case in Canada, Netflix's service in Latin America will be streaming-only, with no DVD option. Citi Investment Research analyst Mark Mahaney estimates that Netflix will be able to capture 8 percent of the Latin American and Caribbean market in the next 12 to 18 months, possibly less if it also launches in Europe and other regions. Mahaney said, "there is absolutely no guarantee that (Netflix) will succeed in any of these new international markets,



Netflix CEO Reed Hastings speaks during the unveiling of the iPhone 4 by Apple CEO Steve Jobs in San Francisco, California. Associated Press

The apps that eat your wireless data

By PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer |

NEW YORK (AP) — If you have a cellphone with a monthly limit on how much data you can use, here are some tips on what types of phone use will gobble up your precious megabytes:

— Streaming video and videoconferencing. The biggest offender. One minute of YouTube-quality video eats up 2 megabytes. If you're on a plan that gives you 200 megabytes per month, you can't even watch Lady Gaga's "Telephone" video once per day. If you're on a 2 gigabyte plan you can, but don't make your iPhone a replacement for a TV. In either case, it's fine to indulge in YouTube and Netflix if you're on Wi-Fi.

— Streaming audio. The second biggest offender, and potentially more serious. While video is something we need to see to enjoy, Internet radio is more of an accompaniment to other activities, such as jogging or doing dishes. That means some people like to keep it on for hours. Audio consumes about a quarter of the data that video does, but 10 minutes a day will break the bank if you're on a 200 megabyte plan. One hour a day of Pandora consumes nearly a gigabyte, which you can afford if you're on a 2-gigabyte plan and don't use other data-hogging apps.

— Photos. If you're a real shutterbug, photos can consume significant amounts of data. Sending and viewing photos both count toward your monthly limit. Posting 10 photos per day eats up most of a 200 megabyte plan. If you're on a 2-gigabyte plan, you probably don't have to worry about photos.

— Maps. Navigation apps consume lots of data when they retrieve map images, up to a megabyte a minute. You're also likely to use them for long periods of time when you're away from Wi-Fi, such as when you're driving. Watch out for these.

— Web surfing. Web pages vary widely in size, so this will depend quite a bit on whether you like to visit graphically rich sites (lots of data) or spare, text-oriented ones (less data). But roughly speaking, ten pages a day will eat up about half of a 200 megabyte plan. Again, those on 2-gigabyte plans don't need to worry much about surfing.

— Facebook. Roughly equivalent to Web surfing. Status updates won't take much data, but sending photos and viewing friends' pictures will.

— Email. Most emails are tiny, in terms of data. Basically, you can send and receive email all you want, as long as they don't have attachments such as photos.

— Twitter. Like email, these short messages don't use much data, but if you follow a lot of people and click on links, usage adds up.

— Weather apps. Small, focused apps that report simple but useful things, such as the weather forecast, save data (and time) compared with looking up the same information on a Web page. □

although we believe that Internet video streaming will become a major activity in each of these markets," Mahaney said in a note to investors.

he company is working on broadening its international reach as its service in the U.S. becomes more ubiq-

uitous. As of March, Netflix had 22.8 million subscribers in the U.S. — about 34,000 more than the number of households subscribing to Comcast Corp.'s cable-TV service. Netflix, which is based in Los Gatos, California, launched its streaming service in the U.S. in 2007 and in Canada last year.

If it does launch the service in Europe, Netflix would face competition with popular online movie rental company Lovefilm, which Amazon.com Inc.

bought in January. Shares of Netflix increased \$14.01, or 5.2 percent, to \$282 in midday trading after earlier hitting a record high of \$283.50. □

In the U.S., a streaming subscription costs \$8 a month and customers can pay slightly more to get DVDs in the mail. As is the case in Canada, Netflix's service in Latin America will be streaming-only, with no DVD option.

Analysis blames NKorea for cyberattack on SKorea

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea or its sympathizers were likely responsible for the cyberattack against South Korean government and banking websites earlier this year, according to a new analysis that said it also appears to have been linked to the 2009 massive computer-based attack that brought down U.S. government Internet sites. A study by computer security software maker McAfee Inc. concludes that the attack that targeted more than two dozen sites in South Korea was a type of reconnaissance mission to

see how quickly South Korea's government detected the problem and recovered from it. The McAfee report, expected to be released Tuesday, said clues in the code suggest that the attack was probably engineered by North Korea or its sympathizers.

It is difficult to tell exactly who was responsible for the attacks, said Dmitri Alperovitch, vice president of threat research at computer-security software maker McAfee Inc., in an interview with The Associated Press. But he said a detailed study of the attack and the computer code used in the 2009 and 2011 attacks show with

95 percent certainty that they were done by the same perpetrator.

South Korean prosecutors said North Korean hackers were behind the so-called denial-of-service attack early this spring, but the North's Ministry of the People's Armed Forces denied it. Because of the difficulties in determining exactly who launched the attack, there is no way to declare it an act of war by another country or an act of cyberterrorism, espionage or more basic crime by a militant group or others. International officials, in fact, are still trying to define cyberwar. □

New air traffic control system at crossroads



In this Sept. 18, 2008 file photo, air traffic controller Karl Haynes Jr. stands beneath a radar screen in the control tower at Washington's Reagan National Airport. Industry officials say the federal program to create a new air traffic control system is at a crossroads, making delays possible.

By **JOAN LOWY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration is creating a new air traffic system that officials say will be as revolutionary for civil aviation as was the advent of radar six decades ago. But the program is at a crossroads. It's getting harder to pry money out of Congress. The airline industry is hesitating over the cost of equipping its planes with new technology necessary to use the system. And some experts say the U.S. could lose its lead in the manufacture of high tech aviation equipment to European competitors because the FAA is moving too slowly. Seventy-five years ago this week the federal government, spurred by the nascent airline industry, began tracking planes at the nation's first air traffic control centers in Newark, N.J., Chicago and Cleveland. The original group of 15 controllers, relying on radioed position reports from pilots, plotted the progress of flights using blackboards, maps and boat-shaped weights. Air traffic control took a technological leap forward in the 1950s with the introduction of radar. That's still the basis of the technology used today by more than 15,000 controllers to guide 50,000 flights a day. Under FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation System program, known as

Associated Press

NextGen, ground radar stations will be replaced by satellite-based technology. Instead of flying indirect routes to stay within the range of ground stations, as planes do today, pilots will use GPS technology to fly directly to their destinations. Planes will continually broadcast their exact positions, not only to air traffic controllers, but to other similarly equipped aircraft within hundreds of miles. For the first time, pilots will be able to see on cockpit displays where they are in relation to other planes and what the flight plans are for those other aircraft. That will enable planes to safely fly closer together. When planes approach airports, precise GPS navigation will allow them to use more efficient landing and takeoff procedures. Instead of time-consuming, fuel-burning stair-step descents, planes will be able to glide in more steeply with their engines idling. Aircraft will be able to land and take off closer together and more frequently, even in poor weather, because pilots will know the precise location of other aircraft and obstacles on the ground. Fewer planes will be diverted. Pilots and airline dispatchers will be able get real-time weather information. Computers will spot potential weather conflicts well in advance so that planes can be rerouted. And, controllers will do a lot less

talking to pilots. Many instructions now transmitted by radio will instead be sent digitally to cockpits, reducing the chance of errors. Together, the suite of new technologies and procedures being phased in will significantly increase the system's traffic capacity, FAA officials predict. That's critical if the number of passengers traveling annually on U.S. airlines grows from an estimated 737 million this year to over 1 billion a year in the next decade, as the FAA forecasts. And, the FAA predicts, NextGen will save significant time, fuel and money. It also will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and noise. "It really is a revolution in air transportation," Deputy FAA Administrator Michael Huerta said in an interview. "The decisions we're making in the next several years will set the foundation for the next 75 years of air traffic control." Paying the tab for NextGen — estimated at as much as \$22 billion for the government and another \$20 billion for the airline industry through 2025 — may be FAA's biggest hurdle. The program has widespread support in the Obama administration and Congress, but it isn't immune to budget cuts in the current climate of austerity. The House wants to reduce FAA's budget authority by \$1 billion a year over the next four years, while the Senate has favored higher funding. Even longtime NextGen supporters like Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee's transportation subcommittee, warn that full funding is no longer automatic. "We need to see a realistic strategy for funding NextGen," she told FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt at a May hearing. "To date, the FAA has filled its budget request with a laundry list of programs and development activities, and a vague promise that somehow the agency will achieve its goals by 2018. But that approach is not enough this year." □

Calif. bill targets excess health insurance rates

By **ADAM WEINTRAUB**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A bill that would allow state officials to reject rate increases proposed by health insurers is under intense lobbying pressure as it faces a key committee vote this week. Groups representing insurers, doctors and hospitals are trying to have the California bill weakened or killed, although for different reasons. The outcome of the debate has national significance. The sheer scale in the California insurance market, along with the state's political landscape and national influence, make it a battleground state for such regulations. California, home to one of every eight Americans, represents 11 percent of the national market for those with health insurance through an employer and 15 percent for those with individual health coverage, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. The bill, AB52, is scheduled for a vote Wednesday, but legislative staff worked through the holiday weekend on proposed amendments to alter parts of the bill that have drawn some of the heaviest fire from opponents. If approved and signed into law, the legislation would allow the state insurance commissioner or the Department of Managed Health Care to reject rate increases deemed excessive. The commissioner already can reject rate hikes for other types of insurance, and 34 other states and the District of Columbia provide regulatory oversight over health rates. Supporters say the bill would protect Californians against excessive rate hikes by profit-oriented insurance companies. But critics say the California proposal is far more wide-reaching than those in most other states and could create a bureaucracy that adds costs but does nothing to address the rising medical costs that drive up insurance rates. □

Borrowers sue over loan mod mishaps

By **JACOB ADELMAN**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It seemed Maria Campusano's financial problems were behind her when the mortgage on her Victorian home in a Massachusetts mill town was chopped by hundreds of dollars a month. She soon learned that her troubles had just begun. Weeks after making her first payment under the new rate, the school district staffer began receiving past-due notices, documents showing wildly inaccurate loan balances and letters threatening foreclosure. She now fears she'll lose her home. "How can they take away what I have worked so hard for?" Campusano said. Campusano is one of two named plaintiffs in a proposed class-action lawsuit alleging breach of contract by Bank of America NA and subsidiary BAC Home Loans Servicing LP. The suit, which was filed in Los Angeles federal court because BAC is located in nearby Calabasas, is among a growing number of legal complaints accusing banks of disregarding what should be binding agreements to reduce the monthly mortgage payments of troubled borrowers. The suits involve permanent modifications through the U.S. Treasury-administered Home Affordable Modification Program, which offers incentives to loan servicers who extend modifications, as well as so-called proprietary modifications, which banks offer independently of the government guidelines. They represent a new wave of complaints against banks that have already weathered years of criticism for their reluctance to modify loans and for foreclosing on borrowers after offering them trial modifications. □

Stores find success by focusing on the hunt

By ELLEN GIBSON
AP Retail Writer

In this June 17, 2011 photo, a shopper eats a pizza as she looks at a \$3,599.99 brick ...

Trader Joe's, the specialty grocery chain, might not have the cheapest toilet paper or the most varieties of ketchup, but it hooks customers with mango butter, chocolate-covered pomegranate seeds and cilantro-and-jalapeno hummus. These goodies aren't on most grocery lists, but they're eye-catching enough to tempt shoppers into an impulse buy. At a time when families are watching dollars and the Web makes discount-hunting easy, unexpected treasures are an increasingly important strategy for stores.

"It's the wow factor that's getting people to buy," says Wall Street Strategies

analyst Brian Sozzi. "You walk into Costco for tuna and end up getting a Marc Jacobs coat."

So shoppers may go into T.J. Maxx or a DSW shoe store looking for a bargain on something they need but end up splurging on irresistible finds, from dirt-cheap Ray-Bans to half-priced Puma sneakers. Dollar Tree lures customers with rock-bottom prices on cleaning supplies, then tempts them with extras like leather iPod cases. And at Costco, tucked inside the hulking pallets of mayonnaise and paper towels is a section where shoppers never know what they'll find.

Costco has been using the term "treasure hunt" for years to explain why up to a fifth of its stock is limited-quantity items that are in the store for as little as a week. Sometimes it's sea-



sonal merchandise, such as margarita machines in summer. Often it's surprisingly trendy — such as bargain-priced Hunter rain boots,

sold almost exclusively in the U.S. by Nordstrom.

The wholesale chain shows that the treasure hunt strategy can pay. Revenue at U.S. Costco stores open at least a year was up 10 percent last quarter from last year, with strong growth in non-essentials like jewelry and home and garden.

Walmart, on the other hand, is still trying to correct itself after a move to pare down to the basics — the opposite of the treasure hunt approach — proved unsuccessful.

Constantly cycling in fresh merchandise is critical as the Web makes it harder for stores to compete on price. After all, why drive to a store that offers "everyday low prices" when you can find the same products cheaper online? Surprises also create suspense and encourage repeat visits.

TJX Cos., the parent company of T.J. Maxx and other chains that sell designer goods at a discount, gained momentum during the recession, when frugality came into style. That growth is continuing after the recession, at a time of high gas prices and stagnant incomes. First-quarter revenue at Marshalls and T.J. Maxx stores open at least a year was up 4 percent over the same period last year.

Sherry Lang, vice president of investor relations at TJX, says the company is focused on keeping trend-conscious customers as the

economy improves. One advertising campaign features a real-world T.J. Maxx buyer on the prowl for hip fashions. "When I score, you score," she says.

The key is not only tracking down quality merchandise from vendors but getting it into the store quickly. To do this, T.J. Maxx and others have invested in sophisticated buying, planning and distribution systems.

The quick turnover creates a sense of urgency: If you don't buy it today, it probably won't be here tomorrow. When the economy tanked, TJX began cycling inventory through the store faster than ever before, Lang says. She believes that a rapidly changing assortment is the top driver of traffic, especially when stores are competing with the Internet.

Superstores like Kmart and Walmart are getting stung by online competition. Any mass-market product — think Jif peanut butter or Hanes T-shirts — can be comparison-priced online, and people tend to buy from the cheapest source. Increasingly, that's Amazon.com or another Web retailer. But the so-called off-price stores, such as T.J. Maxx and Marshalls, often pick up products that have been discontinued and sell them cheaply, says Michael Dart, co-author of the book "The New Rules of Retail." Shoppers probably won't find them for less — or at all — online. □

Oil settles near \$97 per barrel

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Some major investment banks are still betting that oil prices will grow next year despite an emergency injection of crude on world markets from the U.S. and other countries.

Benchmark crude climbed as high as \$97.48 per barrel Tuesday after Barclays Capital raised its 2012 price forecast for Brent crude, used to price many international types of oil. And Goldman Sachs said the International Energy Agency's decision at the end of June to release 60 million barrels of oil from its reserves won't cool off prices as much as originally thought. Independent oil analysts say prices still could head lower this year. But some think IEA's announcement speaks volumes about its expectations for world oil supplies.

"I think it's an admission from them that Saudi Arabia might not be able to produce enough oil on its own" to meet increased world demand, analyst Stephen Schork said.

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude on Tuesday gained \$1.95, or 2



In this July 1, 2011 file photo, a man pumps gas at a crowded Shell gas station in Little Rock, Ark. Oil is climbing as analysts ratchet up price forecasts for next year as supplies get tighter.

Associated Press

percent, to settle at \$96.89 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London Brent crude added \$2.22 to settle at \$113.61 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Barclays increased its 2012 forecast for Brent crude by \$10 to \$115 per barrel on Tuesday, saying prices will rise as global oil demand increases.

Barclays sees China, India, Saudi Arabia and Brazil as the main sources for demand growth. Barclays actually lowered its expectations for benchmark WTI oil, but its forecast for an average price of \$100 per barrel suggests prices are still

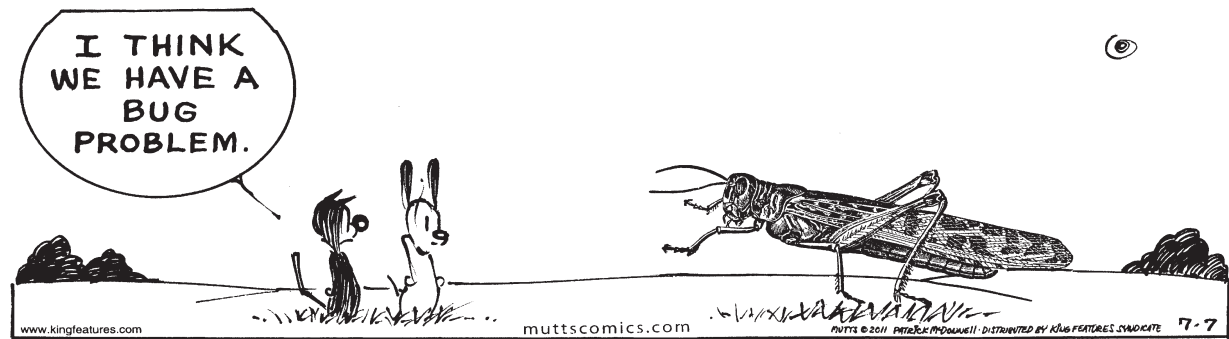
headed higher this year.

Barclays higher outlook for Brent was enough to send all petroleum commodities higher, analyst Jim Ritterbusch said.

The bottom line, Ritterbusch said, is that refineries in Europe will continue to struggle to replace Libyan oil that was cut off when an anti-government uprising that began earlier this year. "They're continuing to suffer the loss of those supplies, and that's affecting everything," he said.

Goldman Sachs also pointed out late last week that the IEA will actually release only about two-thirds of the oil it said it would. □

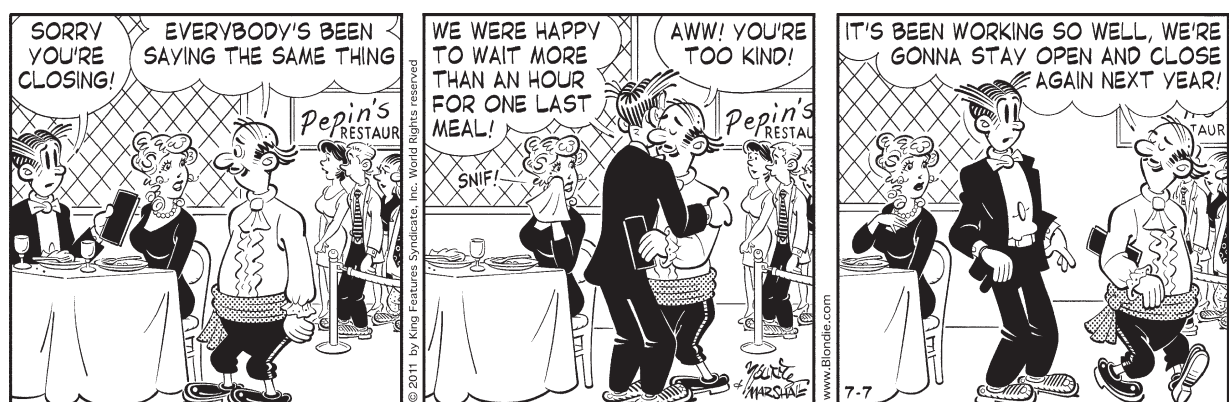
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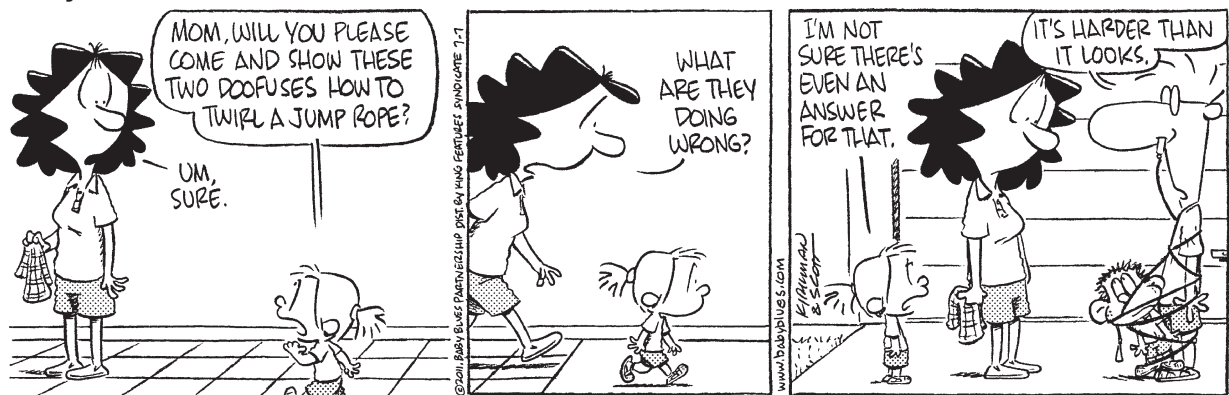
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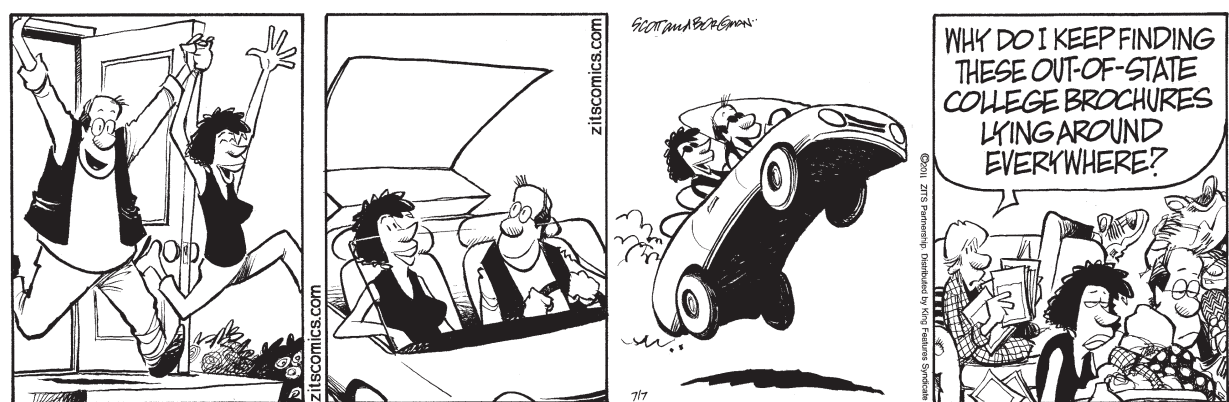
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3	5		1				2	4
6								9
				6				
			3		4			6
		7				4		
8			5		6			
				4				
1								3
5	2				9		7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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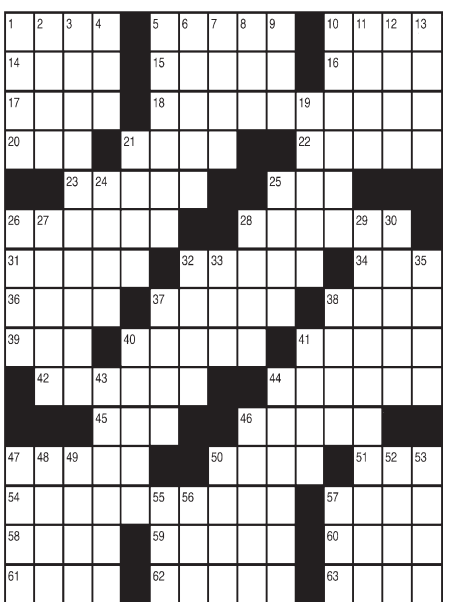
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	2	3	8	6	7	5	1	4
6	4	7	1	5	2	9	3	8
5	1	8	9	3	4	2	7	6
2	9	5	7	1	8	4	6	3
4	7	6	2	9	3	1	8	5
3	8	1	6	4	5	7	2	9
7	5	4	3	2	6	8	9	1
1	6	2	5	8	9	3	4	7
8	3	9	4	7	1	6	5	2

ACROSS

- 1 Bucket
- 5 Graceful waterbirds
- 10 Arrange beforehand
- 14 Climb __; mount
- 15 Forbidden
- 16 Not punctual
- 17 In a __; miffed
- 18 Steal the spotlight from
- 20 Light brown
- 21 Wonder-struck
- 22 Cairo's nation
- 23 Margins
- 25 Greek T
- 26 Concurred
- 28 Take out
- 31 __-new; just purchased
- 32 Entreaties
- 36 Bacardi product
- 38 Trash __; barrels
- 37 Fit for a king
- 38 Rider's fee
- 39 Concorde, for one: abbr.
- 40 Refueling ship
- 41 Respect highly
- 42 Phony; false
- 44 Cool, creamy dessert
- 45 Feasted
- 46 Isle in the Bay of Naples
- 47 Social division
- 50 Voice amplifier
- 51 Observe
- 54 Absolutely necessary
- 57 Remain
- 58 Layer of a wedding cake
- 59 Not hollow
- 60 __ a question; inquire
- 61 Small whirlpool
- 62 __, Dolly!; hit musical
- 63 Painting and sculpturing



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ELF	BATHE	ICON
OILS	ACRES	MOPE
NEAT	STOAT	POUR
SPAGHETTI	ALSO	
REED	MAC	
ADMITS	BLASTING	
BOONS	BOOTH	LEE
AGOG	HOUSE	LIAR
CID	SEANS	REARM
KEYBOARD	WOODSY	
ODD	THAN	
IOWA	ADJOINING	
OVER	CROWN	NOON
TEND	HAVEN	EURO
ANTS	EMERY	NEW

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DOWN

- 1 Emily or Markie
- 2 __ Karenina

- 3 Vagabonds
- 4 "Thanks a __!"
- 5 Stored away
- 6 Surfer's concerns
- 7 In the sack
- 8 And not
- 9 Letters of distress
- 10 Deadly epidemic
- 11 Godiva or Gaga
- 12 Perched upon
- 13 Mr. Gingrich
- 19 Cures
- 21 Grew gray
- 24 Comfy rooms
- 25 Colorful duck
- 26 Fundamentals
- 27 Clutch
- 28 Precious
- 29 Small radio
- 30 Currency abroad
- 32 Explorer Marco
- 33 Caustic soap ingredient
- 35 French mother
- 37 Carnival attraction
- 38 Petit __; small frosted pastry
- 40 External
- 41 Actress Lange
- 43 Restaurant
- 44 Improvise
- 46 Polite
- 47 Refer to
- 48 In the center of
- 49 Raced
- 50 Pepper grinder
- 52 Vane direction
- 53 Peepers
- 55 Bit of soot
- 56 Foot digit
- 57 Hot tub

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 6, the 187th day of 2011. There are 178 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1535 - Sir Thomas More is executed in England on the orders of Henry VIII for advocating separation of church and state.

1699 - Pirate captain William Kidd is taken into custody in Boston, Massachusetts. He is later hanged in England.

1747 - France and Spain break combined blockade by British fleet and troops of Austria's Maria Theresa at Genoa, Italy.

1809 - Pope Pius VII, having excommunicated Napoleon Bonaparte, is taken prisoner by the French.

1908 - Young Turks under Niazi Bey stage revolt at Resina in Macedonia. Government troops sent to quell the riot desert.

1917 - Arab horsemen led by British officer T.E. Lawrence — also known as Lawrence of Arabia — capture the heavily garrisoned Turkish fort at Aqaba.

1919 - British dirigible lands at New York's Roosevelt Field, marking first crossing of Atlantic Ocean by an airship.

1923 - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is formed.

1945 - Nicaragua becomes first nation formally to accept United Nations charter.

1964 - Nyasaland Protectorate, renamed Malawi, becomes independent within British Commonwealth.

1967 - Fighting breaks out between Nigerian troops and those of the newly proclaimed "Republic of Biafra." The fighting later flares into a full-scale, two-year war.

1968 - Solomon Islands become independent from Britain.

1971 - Kamuzu Banda declares himself president for life in Malawi.

1972 - South Vietnamese capture Communist-occupied Quang Tri city.

Today's Birthdays:

Frida Kahlo, Mexican artist (1907-1954); Janet Leigh, U.S. actress (1927-2004); Merv Griffin, entertainment mogul/former talk show host (1925-2007); Sylvester Stallone, U.S. actor (1946--); the Dalai Lama, exiled Tibetan leader (1935--); Nanci Griffith, U.S. country singer (1953--); Geoffrey Rush, actor (1951--).

Thought For Today:

Growing old is no more than a bad habit which a busy man has no time to form — Andre Maurois, French author (1885-1967). □

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NY biologists map strategy to save spruce grouse



On this May 9, 2008 file photo a male sage grouse fights for the attention of female sage grouse southwest of Rawlins, Wyo.
Associated Press

By MARY ESCH

Associated Press |

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Genetic analysis at the state museum confirms what biologists squishing through Adirondack bogs already knew: New York's population of the spruce grouse, a chicken-like bird of the boreal forest, is nearing extinc-

tion.

Avid birders travel great distances to glimpse rare boreal species in the cool, moist forests of the Adirondacks and other Northeastern mountains. While boreal species — including the boreal chickadee, Bicknell's thrush, blackpoll warbler and gray jay —

are plentiful further north in Canada, biologists say global climate change and habitat loss are driving them out of the southern reaches of their range.

The spruce grouse is the most threatened of all because it lives in isolated and shrinking patches of bog and doesn't fly off in search of new territory like songbirds do. Biologists estimate there are 100 to 200 left in the Adirondacks.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has drafted a Spruce Grouse Recovery Plan, to be released this summer, which will explore ways to save the species. Among the possibilities is capturing spruce grouse in Ontario, where they're plentiful, and releasing them in the Adirondacks to refresh a gene pool depleted by decades of inbreeding.

Jeremy Kirchman, curator of birds at the New York State Museum, has studied DNA from blood samples of spruce grouse captured by researchers in the Adirondacks and compared it with samples from 100-to-150-year-old Adirondack spruce grouse specimens in museum collections. He also compared it with modern birds from other areas. "Among 22 modern birds in the Adirondacks, 19 were genetically identical" at the gene selected for com-

parison, Kirchman said in a recent interview. "In six birds from Ontario, almost every individual was unique." The same was true for samples from spruce grouse in Minnesota, Michigan and Washington state, and for the old museum specimens. "That's what you'd expect in a big, healthy population," Kirchman said. "The spruce grouse across its range is highly genetically diverse at this gene. But this little island population in the Adirondacks is not."

In 2008, Vermont's Fish and Wildlife agency started augmenting that state's spruce grouse population, estimated at about 100, by trapping and relocating 134 birds from Maine and Quebec to the Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area in northeastern Vermont, according to John Buck, an agency biologist. It'll take 10 to 15 years for the success of that project to be realized, he said.

If New York attempts a similar effort, it will use Kirchner's DNA studies to select birds similar to the genetic makeup of the Adirondack population. The spruce grouse population in New York is confined to 15 sites, down from 23 sites in 1987, according to DEC.

"In the past, declines were probably linked to loss and fragmentation of habitat due to intensive,

large-scale softwood logging occurring around the late 1800s," said Angelena Ross, a DEC biologist who has studied spruce grouse for many years along with Glenn Johnson, a biologist from the State University of New York at Potsdam.

"Our studies suggest that the spruce grouse may be declining now because of changes in forest structure and composition related to the maturation of coniferous forests," Ross said.

The ruffed grouse, while not endangered, is also declining in the maturing hardwood forests of the Northeast because they need the cover provided by young trees, Ross said.

DEC's restoration plan may include habitat restoration by removing old trees to let young ones spring up. That would likely help boreal songbirds as well as spruce grouse, Ross said. But that could only be done on private forest tracts because tree-cutting is prohibited on state land in the Adirondacks. Spruce grouse use feather sounds during courtship and perform a complex mating dance where they swish their tails from side to side while walking and end the display with a simultaneous flick of the head and fan of the tail. "They are a groovy bird," Ross said. "In my opinion, they are a symbol of the boreal. They are interesting because they literally eat the boreal forest — eat tamarack, spruce and fir needles."

While the genetic diversity of New York's spruce grouse is not what it was a century ago, the ill effects of inbreeding — such as fewer chicks, higher mortality rates and increased disease — are not being seen, Ross said. □

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'Captain America' keeps full name in most of world



LOS ANGELES (AP) — Captain America will keep its patriotic full title in most of the world when the superhero adventure hits the big-screen. Paramount Pictures and Marvel Studios gave distributors around the world the option of shortening the title of "Captain America: The First Avenger" to simply "The First Avenger," out of

concern about anti-American sentiment. But the only countries that took them up on it were Russia, Ukraine and South Korea. In other territories, the movie will go out with the full title, a sign that the brand value of the Marvel Comics hero trumps any potential anti-U.S. feelings in some parts of the world.

Movie titles often are changed in foreign countries for cultural reasons or because the original names don't translate well. In French-speaking countries, "The Hangover" and its sequel were titled "Very Bad Trip." Starring Chris Evans as the patriotic super-soldier, "Captain America" opens in U.S. theaters July 22. □

'Transformers' fires up holiday weekend with \$116M

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" followed the franchise's previous installments to quick blockbuster status, hauling in \$115.9 million over the long Fourth of July weekend.

The movie raised its domestic total to \$180.7 million in just over six days.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Monday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Tuesday by Hollywood.com are:

1. "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," Paramount, \$115,886,050, 4,088 locations, \$23,937 average, \$180,651,397, one week.
2. "Cars 2," Disney, \$31,629,695, 4,115 locations, \$6,385 average, \$122,560,310, two weeks.
3. "Bad Teacher," Sony, \$17,261,534, 3,049 locations, \$4,758 average, \$62,707,505, two weeks.
4. "Larry Crowne," Univer-



sal, \$16,098,795, 2,973 locations, \$4,405 average, \$16,098,795, one week.

5. "Super 8," Paramount, \$9,527,129, 3,088 locations, \$2,565 average, \$110,070,156, four weeks.

6. "Monte Carlo," Fox, \$8,588,318, 2,473 locations, \$3,014 average, \$8,588,318,

one week.

7. "Green Lantern," Warner Bros., \$7,928,176, 3,280 locations, \$1,999 average, \$103,616,460, three weeks.

8. "Mr. Popper's Penguins," Fox, \$6,702,940, 2,861 locations, \$1,936 average, \$51,727,662, three weeks.

9. "Midnight in Paris," Sony Pictures Classics,

\$4,382,382, 858 locations, \$4,172 average, \$34,582,454, seven weeks.

10. "Bridesmaids," Universal, \$4,354,515, 1,389 locations, \$2,625 average, \$153,728,880, eight weeks.

11. "X-Men: First Class," Fox, \$3,617,628, 1,602 locations, \$1,842 average, \$139,329,355, five weeks.

12. "The Hangover Part II," Warner Bros., \$2,799,390, 1,568 locations, \$1,525 average, \$248,651,272, six weeks.

13. "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," Disney, \$2,629,072, 1,473 locations, \$1,487 average, \$234,176,965, seven weeks.

14. "Kung Fu Panda 2," Paramount, \$2,086,729, 1,281 locations, \$1,300 average, \$157,281,396, six weeks.

15. "The Tree of Life," Fox Searchlight, \$1,307,156, 228 locations, \$4,686 average, \$7,810,592, six weeks.

16. "Beginners," Focus, \$740,568, 108 locations, \$5,539 average, \$2,506,936, five weeks.

17. "Delhi Belly," UTV, \$701,824, 89 locations, \$6,539 average, \$701,824, one week.

18. "Buck," IFC, \$601,336, 131 locations, \$3,671 average, \$1,131,831, three weeks.

19. "Rio," Fox, \$542,534, 308 locations, \$1,451 average, \$140,575,082, 12 weeks.

20. "Thor," Paramount, \$470,820, 270 locations, \$1,483 average, \$177,988,100, nine weeks. □

Man arrested outside Paris Hilton's home charged

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man arrested outside Paris Hilton's coastal home was charged Tuesday with disobeying a court order to stay away from the socialite. Sheriff's deputies arrested James Rainford on Monday, the third time in less than a year that the 36-year-old has been jailed for trying to meet Hilton.

He pleaded not guilty Tuesday afternoon and was being held on \$30,000 bail, district attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said.

Jail records do not indicate whether he has an attorney. Authorities said Rainford was arrested Monday after paparazzi who were outside Hilton's home recognized him. A judge issued a restraining order in October after Rainford was arrested outside Hilton's Hollywood Hills home. He was arrested earlier this year after he attempted to grab Hilton's then-boyfriend, Cy Waits, outside a Los Angeles courthouse where the pair testified against another man

who attempted to burglarize the hotel heiress' home in the Hollywood Hills. Rainford pleaded no contest in April to misdemeanor battery and was sentenced to 227 days in jail, but records show he was released May 20. Rainford was released after serving less than a month because of jail overcrowding and mandatory credits imposed by the state, sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said. He is due back in court July 15. □

who attempted to burglarize the hotel heiress' home in the Hollywood Hills. Rainford pleaded no contest in April to misdemeanor battery and was sentenced to 227 days in jail, but records show he was released May 20. Rainford was released after serving less than a month because of jail overcrowding and mandatory credits imposed by the state, sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said. He is due back in court July 15. □



**NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF**

Editor's note: This is a continuation from a piece published July 4, 2011.

AIDS still exacts a huge toll on Africa – an additional 1.8 million Africans became infected with HIV in 2009, the last year for which a figure is available – but we saw progress. In Burkina Faso, we visited women who during labor received anti-retrovirals that significantly reduced the risk of mother-to-child transmission. It's a cheap, simple intervention that avoids the need for lifelong medication for the child.

"There is unprecedented progress in global health," Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, told me. "Things that we would have seen as a dream in 2001 now are achievable objectives. A world of almost no malaria deaths. A world with almost no mother-to-child transmission of HIV."

Partly because Noreen is a teacher, we often stopped in villages and asked about education. Often we ran into children who didn't go to school at all. But that's becoming rare, and girls in particular are more likely to attend school now than a decade ago. The United Nations says that primary school enrollment in sub-Saharan Africa has increased five times as quickly since 1999 as it did in the previous decade.

We also asked whether the schools really functioned – it's common in poor countries for a school building to exist, but for teachers not to show up. We encountered some of that.

We saw many reminders that technology was transforming lives. A generation ago, many in the countryside had to collect water from mud puddles, while now there are covered wells with clean water.

In a few places we saw solar panels used to power electric lights. Roads are improving, and motorcycles and trucks are more common. One result is that when a mother is in difficult or life-threatening labor, she can now sometimes be taken to a hospital in the back of a pickup truck instead of rolled there in a wheelbarrow.

The grandest new technol-

An African adventure, and a revelation

ogy is the cellphone. "More than 100 people here have cellphones," one woman told us proudly in her village in Burkina Faso. "There are too many to count." We asked how many toilets the village had, and she explained that not a single home had yet installed an outhouse.

Why would people prioritize cellphones over toilets? With cellphones, families can find out what market town offers the best price for their goods, or where fertilizer is cheapest. They can save money or transfer it, for cellphones are becoming the banking system for the poor. They can find out where there are jobs, or if contraceptives are finally in stock at the clinic a half-day's hike away. The villagers were equally intrigued that we thought toilets so crucial, and one explained, "It's just easier to go in the fields."

Family planning remains a huge challenge. Only 23

would benefit enormously.

Yet family planning remains under-financed, and in a clinic we visited in Mauritania the head nurse, Ould Yatma, said that to receive contraceptives a woman must prove that her husband has consented. "She must bring her husband, or at least bring her husband's ID card to prove that he agrees."

Saumya talked to the women about that and this is what she found out:

^While there are women unable to receive contraceptives without a husband's consent, there are also women educating one another. In Niger, one woman told me that girls are enrolled in literacy classes – which become secure havens for them to discuss issues without men present. One of those topics: family planning.

Often I met women who were empowered in other ways. In one village, a woman taught

helpless, downtrodden creature who could do little on her own. I am happy to be proved wrong.

@ Another obstacle we encountered firsthand was corruption and suffocating bureaucracy. As we crossed the Mauritania-Senegal border on a ferry, we saw trucks that had been waiting for a month to cross – because of a dispute between government officials on each side. At the Niger-Burkina Faso border, we again saw huge lineups of trucks waiting for customs inspections (which, translated into the local patois, often means payments to officials to avoid an inspection).

African leaders need to promote trade, simplify border crossings, reduce the opportunities for graft and encourage home-grown private business. Niger should be ashamed that its thicket of regulatory requirements

northern Mali – that's one reason we didn't try to visit Timbuktu, which is in that region. This branch of al-Qaida has kidnapped foreigners, apparently for ransom at least as much as for ideological reasons, in a belt from Mauritania to Niger.

In January two Frenchmen were abducted from a bar in the Niger capital, Niamey. A rescue operation led to a firefight in which both men were killed. We heard accounts that al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb was fortifying its fighters with weapons smuggled from looted Libyan armories.

The group also profits by inviting in cocaine smugglers who fly drugs in from South America and then move them on to Europe.

Noreen reported on the question of terrorism and democracy:

In Mauritania, we met a pro-democracy writer and activist, Abderrahmane Weddady, who made the case that the autocratic Mauritanian government manipulated American fears of terrorists. The United States supports Mauritania partly because its military fights al-Qaida – but Weddady argues that it is the Mauritanian government's oppression, corruption and economic incompetence that actually drive people to al-Qaida.

The United States plays into the hands of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb when it supports undemocratic governments like his own, he said. "The real stability is democracy," Weddady told us. And yes, it was a little odd to be lectured about the transformative power of democracy – by a Mauritanian.

We had been told in advance that the first stretch of road after we crossed into Burkina Faso might be risky even in daytime – more from banditry than from al-Qaida – so we arranged a military escort. "There shouldn't be a problem," added the person who arranged the armed escorts. "But if there is, get your heads down. They feel that their job is to shoot."

That's the kind of Africa story you normally hear – a dash of guns and chaos – and it's real, but also incomplete. As my win-a-trip winners found on this journey, the poverty is heartbreaking and the insecurity ominous. But the giraffes and villagers alike are hugely welcoming, and the progress is now effervescent. The backdrop is a continent that is chipping away at poverty and disease, while doing a better job of educating its young. Africa seems likely to become a much more important part of the global economy in the 21st century – a place to admire, not to pity. □



Somali women carry their children as well as their belongings from Southern Somalia making their way to the internally displaced camps in Mogadishu, Somalia, Tuesday, July 5, 2011, after fleeing their homes, due to lack of water and food. A severe drought has plunged millions of Somalis into crisis after rains failed for several consecutive seasons in this Horn of Africa nation, and the U.N. and aid groups are warning of the possibility of a looming catastrophe. The drought has increased the number of malnourished children in some regions, displaced thousands of people and killed thousands of animals. Officials in a central Somali region said 18 people died of drought-related effects.

Associated Press

percent of women in sub-Saharan Africa use contraceptives, and we talked to some women who had never even heard of family planning.

"I don't want any more babies," Hawa Samaila told us in one village in Niger. "If I can get something to stop getting pregnant, I'd like that." She had had 12 babies, of whom six had died. If African women (who now average more than five children each) had only 2.7 births on average (the rate now in India), Africa

Noreen and me how to grind millet, using a huge stick in an oversize mortar. She made it seem effortless and fluid, for women sometimes spend six hours a day grinding grain into flour.

Then Noreen and I tried. Lift, smash, lift, smash. Within minutes, we were exhausted, our biceps sore. This woman's 10-year-old daughter outshone us both.

Before I traveled through these countries, my image of an African woman was of a

make it one of the worst countries in the world in which to do business, according to the World Bank's terrific Doing Business series. (Niger ranks 173rd out of 183 countries in the 2011 report.)

Another huge burden that we witnessed along much of our journey: civil conflict and insecurity. One of the most robust franchises of al-Qaida is one we don't hear much about in America, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. It has created a sanctuary for itself in

The mother of all no-brainers



DAVID BROOKS

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The Republicans have changed American politics since they took control of the House of Representatives. They have put spending restraint and debt reduction at the top of the national agenda. They have sparked a discussion on entitlement reform. They have turned a bill to raise the debt limit into an opportunity to put the U.S. on a stable fiscal course. Republican leaders have also proved to be effective negotiators. They have been tough and inflexible and forced the Democrats to come to them. The Democrats have agreed to tie budget cuts to the debt ceiling bill. They have agreed not to raise tax rates. They have agreed to a roughly 3-to-1 rate of spending cuts to revenue increases, an astonishing concession. Moreover, many important Democrats are open to a truly large budget deal. President Barack Obama has a strong incentive to reach a deal so he can campaign in 2012 as a moderate. The Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, has talked about supporting a debt reduction measure of \$3 trillion or \$4 trillion if the Republicans meet him part way. There are Democrats in the White House and elsewhere who would be willing to accept Medicare cuts if the Republicans would be willing to increase revenues. If the Republican Party were a normal party, it would take advantage of this amazing moment. It is being offered the deal of the century: trillions of dollars in spending cuts in exchange for a few hundred million dollars of revenue increases.

A normal Republican Party would seize the opportunity to put a long-term limit on the growth of government. It would seize the opportunity to put the country on a sound fiscal footing. It would seize the opportunity to do these things without putting any real crimp in economic growth. The party is not being asked to raise marginal tax rates in a way that might pervert incentives. On the contrary, Republicans are merely being asked to close loopholes and eliminate tax expenditures that are themselves distortionary. This, as I say, is the mother of all no-brainers. But we can have no confidence that the Republicans will seize this op-

portunity. That's because the Republican Party may no longer be a normal party. Over the past few years, it has been infected by a faction that is more of a psychological protest than a practical, governing alternative.

The members of this movement do not accept the logic of compromise, no matter how sweet the terms. If you ask them to raise taxes by an inch in order to cut government by a foot, they will say no. If you ask them to raise taxes by an inch to cut government by a yard, they will still say no.

The members of this movement do not accept the legitimacy of scholars and intellectual authorities. A thousand impartial experts may tell him that a default on the debt would have calamitous effects, far worse than raising tax revenues a bit. But the members of this movement refuse to believe it. The members of this movement have no sense of moral decency. A nation makes a sacred pledge to pay the money back when it borrows money. But the members of this movement talk blandly of default and are willing to stain their nation's honor.

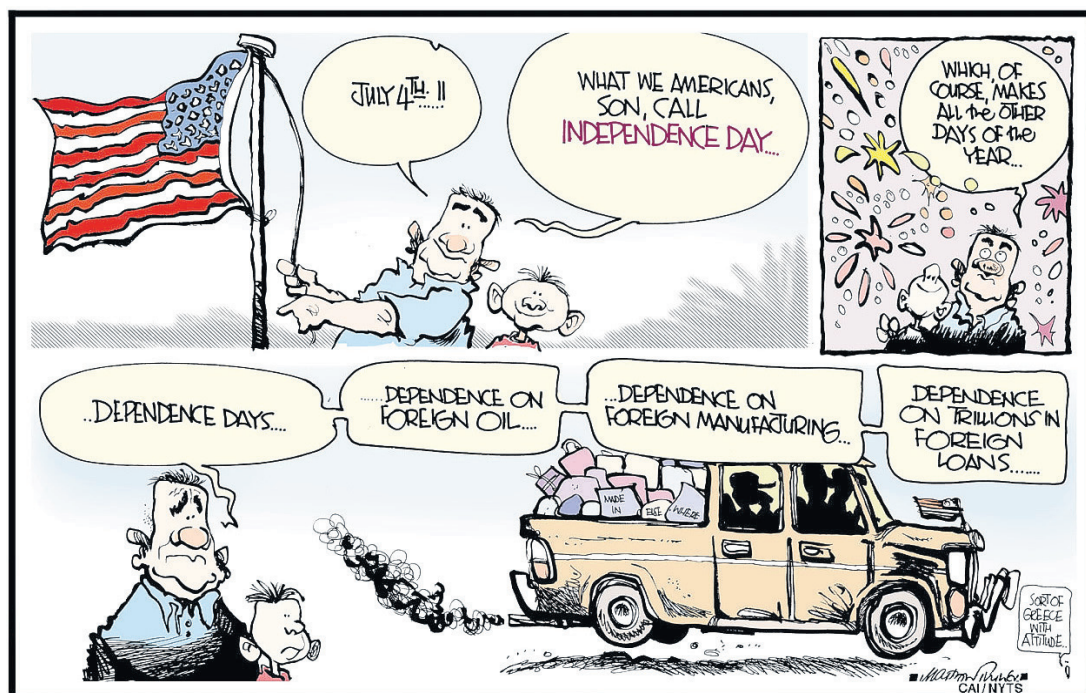
The members of this movement have no economic theory worthy of the name. Economists have identified many factors that contribute to economic growth, ranging from the productivity of the workforce to the share of private savings that is available for private investment. Tax levels matter, but they are far from the only or even the most important factor.

But to members of this movement, tax levels are everything. Members of this tendency have taken a small piece of economic policy and turned it into a sacred fixation. They are willing to cut education and research to preserve tax expenditures. Manufacturing employment is cratering even as output rises, but members of this movement somehow believe such problems can be addressed so long as they continue to worship their idol. Over the past week, Democrats have stopped making concessions. They are coming to the conclusion that if the Republicans are fanatics then they better be fanatics, too.

The struggles of the next few weeks are about what sort of party the GOP is – a normal conservative party or an odd protest movement that has separated itself from normal governance, the normal rules of evidence and the ancient habits of our nation.

If the debt ceiling talks fail, independent voters will see that Democrats were willing to compromise but Republicans were not. If responsible Republicans don't take control, independents will conclude that Republican fanaticism caused this default. They will conclude that Republicans are not fit to govern.

And they will be right. □



JOE NOCERA

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A young immigrant woman, lacking privilege and money, alleges that she was raped while on the job. She reports the incident soon after it takes place. There is semen on her clothes and bruises on her body. She tells her story with such conviction that, according to The New York Times, seasoned investigators cry when they hear it. The man she says raped her – wealthy, famous and powerful – is on an airplane about to depart for his native land. This is the same country that, for decades, helped shield Roman Polanski from being prosecuted for statutory rape in the United States. The man in the current case appears to have left the hotel where the rape allegedly occurred in some haste. He even forgets to take one of his cellphones. With no time to spare, detectives lure him off the plane and arrest him. When he is questioned, he refuses to talk about the incident, having already "lawyered up." He is forced to do the "perp walk," and spends the next five days in jail, at which point he is indicted. (Under New York law, if prosecutors don't indict him within five days, they have to release him on his own recognizance.) Once out on bail, he is placed under house arrest, in a \$200,000-a-month New York townhouse. The New York tabloids mock him mercilessly. Now that the man can't flee, prosecutors turn their attention to the alleged victim. They begin

Vance did what he had to do

investigating her background, knowing that the case hinges on her credibility. In just six weeks – an extraordinarily short time, as these things go – they put together a devastating profile of her past, filled with troubling inconsistencies, outright lies and the possibility that she hopes to profit from her alleged ordeal.

The prosecutors waste no time divulging these exculpatory facts to the man's lawyers. Then, in open court, they tell the judge what they've found. He releases the man from house arrest. Though the case is not yet abandoned, it almost surely will be. You know what I've just described, of course: l'affaire DSK. In the days since Dominique Strauss-Kahn's stunning reversal of fortune, many Frenchmen have howled at the injustice of it all: "This vision of Dominique Strauss-Kahn humiliated in chains, dragged lower than the gutter," as the French writer (and DSK friend) Bernard-Henri Levy put it – all because Cyrus Vance, the Manhattan district attorney, chose to believe "a hotel chambermaid" over an esteemed member of the French political establishment. In America, meanwhile, the case's collapse has brought sniping from former prosecutors and white-collar defense attorneys, who have criticized Vance, in particular, for indicting Strauss-Kahn before he knew more about the victim's background.

For the life of me, though, I can't see what Vance did wrong. Quite the contrary. The woman alleged rape, for crying out loud, which was backed up by physical (and other) evidence. She had no criminal record. Her employer vouched for her. The quick decision to indict made a lot of sense, both for legal and practical reasons. Then, as the victim's credibility crumbled, Vance didn't try to pretend that he still had a slam dunk, something far too many prosecutors do. He acknowledged the problems. Levy, himself a member of the

French elite, seems particularly incensed that Vance wouldn't automatically give Strauss-Kahn a pass, given his extraordinary social status. Especially since his accuser had no status at all.

But that is exactly why Vance should be applauded: A woman with no power made a credible accusation against a man with enormous power. He acted without fear or favor. To have done otherwise would have been to violate everything we believe in this country about no one being above the law.

As for Strauss-Kahn's humiliation, clearly something very bad happened in that hotel room. Quite possibly a crime was committed. Strauss-Kahn's sordid sexual history makes it likely that he was the instigator. If the worst he suffers is a perp walk, a few days in Rikers Island and some nasty headlines, one's heart ought not bleed. Ah, yes, and he had to resign as the chief of an institution where sexual harassment was allegedly rampant, thanks, in part, to a culture he helped perpetuate. Gee, isn't that awful?

The point is this: We live in a country that professes to treat everyone equally under the law. So often we fall short. The poor may go unheard; the rich walk. Yet here is a case that actually lives up to our ideal of who we like to think we are. Even the way the case appears to be ending speaks to our more noble impulses. Vance didn't dissemble or delay or hide the truth about the victim's past. He did the right thing, painful though it surely must have been.

To judge by his recent writings, Bernard-Henri Levy prefers to live in a country where the elites are rarely held to account, where crimes against women are routinely excused with a wink and a nod and where people without money or status are treated like the nonentities that the French moneyed class believe they are.

I'd rather live here. □



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